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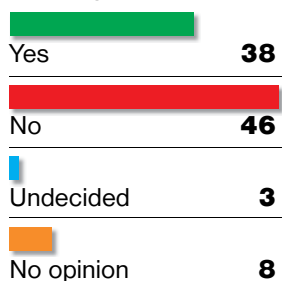
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POLL RESULTS

Should the NMC board
reconsider and rein-
state Agnes McPhetres
as a regent?



Sunday, March 22, 2009

INSIDE



Pope in Africa

Tens of thousands of Angola's Catholics lined the streets of the capital Saturday for a blessing from Pope Benedict XVI.

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Knowing Nick

A different Nicolas Cage is in theaters Friday in the Alex Proyas thriller "Knowing."

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18 schools, 375 kids vie in Mathcourt regional. **PAGE 3**

NMC instructors overloaded, says faculty prexy. **PAGE 5**

'Green card' interviews now on Saipan

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Friends of the Monument gets EPA award

ON THE NET

<http://marianamonument.blogspot.com>



The Friends of the Monument were informed last week that they are to be recipients of a 2009 EPA Environmental Award on April 16. The award recognizes individuals and groups outside of the EPA who are making significant contributions to improve the environment.

Jane Mack of the Friends of the Monument was the first person notified about the award.

See **FRIENDS** on Page 4

CNMI residents applying for green cards need no longer go to Guam for their interview as the Department of Homeland Security's U.S.

Citizenship and Immigration Services Division will now be conducting the interviews at its Garapan office.

CONTACT INFO

For 'InfoPass' appointment: www.uscis.gov
USCIS customer service line: (800) 375-5283

In a statement issued Friday by the department, it said the "green card" interviews will begin today, March 23, at its new Application Support Center in the TSL Plaza in Garapan. The move is expected to help CNMI customers save time and money.

"We are very pleased that legal counsel gave us the go-ahead to provide this

See **GREEN** on Page 4

Court asked to dismiss Sablan's lawsuit

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Fitial administration has asked the CNMI Superior Court to dismiss Rep. Tina Sablan's lawsuit that seeks to compel it to disclose where it is getting the money to finance its anti-federalization lawsuit.



Sablan

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, acting Attorney General Gregory Baka, and Finance Secretary Eloy S. Inos, through assistant attorney general Braddock Huesman, noted several problems with Sablan's lawsuit.

Huesman cited that some of the relief requested by Sablan's petition is not available under

the statute and is therefore improper.

Huesman said Baka, as demonstrated in the congresswoman's pleading in court, never received any Open Government Act request.

"As nothing was requested of him, it is improper to name him [Baka] as a defendant," the lawyer said.

Moreover, nothing in Sablan's com-

See **COURT** on Page 4



NJFL names 9 regional champs for national tilts

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Nine students from public and private schools will officially represent the CNMI in various national competitions this year after being adjudged champions in the National Junior Forensic League regional contest held Saturday at Marianas High School.

The delegates will advance to the national level in San Antonio, Texas this June.

There were 73 middle school partici-

See **NJFL** on Page 4

Gold medalists in the National Junior Forensic League events pose for a picture after the competition Saturday at Marianas High School. The winners will officially represent the CNMI in the national events in San Antonio, Texas in June this year.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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Local

Labor sanctions resto operator

For allowing waitresses to work with expired permits

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Labor has sanctioned a restaurant operator for allowing two waitresses to continue working without work permits or authorization from the Labor director.

Administrative hearing officer Jerry Cody ordered B&J Corp. to pay a \$750 fine to the CNMI government for violating local labor laws.

Cody authorized the workers—Jessica Yap and Xiangshun Cui—to resume their employment with B&J Corp. as waitresses.

Cody directed the company to file renewal applications for Yap and Cui, along with another former employer, Shunyu Jin.

In his administrative order, the hearing officer granted Jin's request to transfer to a new employer.

"The evidence of unlawful employment on the part of petitioners [Yap, Cui, and Jin] and the 'former' employer in this case justifies substantial sanctions," he said.

Cody noted that B&J's management controlled the employment relationship and directed

the workers to continue working.

"Therefore, the employer bears the primary responsibility for the conduct," he said.

Labor papers show that B&J operates the Samcheonggak Korean Restaurant on Middle Road. Yap and Cui were working as waitresses at B&J's restaurant in early 2009.

Yap's permit expired on Jan. 22, 2009; Cui's permit expired on Jan. 9, 2009.

Because of B&J's plan to change the restaurant's ownership, B&J did not renew the waitresses' permits when they expired. The plan was for Yap and Cui to transfer to the new owner of the restaurant, D&J.

Therefore, Yap and Cui registered with the Labor Division of Employment Services, submitted Employer Intent Forms signed by D&J Corp., and received notices of hearing and objection to the proposed employment.

The other petitioner, Jin, worked for a different employer under a foreign national permit that expired in November 2008. Jin also registered, submitted an Employer Intent Form signed by D&J, then received a notice of hearing and objection to the proposed employment.

A consolidated objection hearing regarding all three petitions was conducted on March 11, 2009. At the hearing, Yap and Cui admitted that they continued working as waitresses at B&J's restaurant after their permits expired and at the direction of B&J, from January until the present.

Jin admitted that she began working at the restaurant several weeks ago. The employment was carried out without permit or authorization from the Labor director.

The proposed change of ownership never materialized and B&J now wishes to continue operating the restaurant. B&J is asking to be allowed to renew the work permits for Yap and Cui.

The Labor director indicated that he would not oppose the request, provided that the employer pays a sanction of \$750 for its unlawful conduct.

In his order, Cody determined that a sanction of \$750 is justified based on the facts of this case.

Cody allowed Yap and Cui to resume working for B&J provided that B&J files a renewal application for each worker, and pays the \$750 sanction to the CNMI.

See **LABOR** on Next Page

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18 schools, 375 kids vie in Mathcourt regional

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Public School System's annual Mathcourt regional competition last Saturday recorded the event's biggest participation ever, comprising a remarkable 18 public and private primary schools and 375 final competitors.

Reo Arriola, chairman of the 5th Annual Mathcourt contest for Kindergarten to fifth grade divisions, said they anticipate even more entries next year following the suspension of the local Mathcourts competition on island.

All 375 competitors in Saturday's event were winners in the last four preliminary events, which qualify them to enter the final sets in the regional rounds.

"We have 375 competitors from seven private schools and

11 public schools today. This is the biggest ever school turnout for a Mathcourt regional and we're anticipating more next year," Arriola told *Saipan Tribune*.

Like the Primary Grade Forensic league, Mathcourt has no national events where they could send gold medalists to compete. However, Arriola said that PSS continuously searches for off-island events that are similar to the PSS Mathcourt contest.

"It is our goal to send our gold medalists [in the 6-12th division] to off-island events and hopefully we can find something that suits our local competition here," he said.

Based on the PSS benchmarks and standards, Arriola said the annual event has proven effective in helping students improve their learning skills in mathematics.

Last Saturday, students

competed in four categories: numbers, algebra, measurement geometry, and data statistics and probability. Forty competitors were awarded gold, silver, and bronze medals and ribbons for all events in the K-2nd division and the third to fifth grade division.

"Mathcourt is something that CNMI-PSS created, where all questions are based on our standards and benchmarks. It is our aim to encourage kids to be aware of these benchmarks that they are being taught in school. Through this event, we're not only making progress in our student learning but we're also helping teachers," he said.

Arriola said PSS is trying to do away with the textbook-style teaching and is moving

toward standard-based teaching of educators.

He admitted that geometry and measurement as well as data statistics are usually ignored in the classroom because some teachers are not comfortable teaching these subjects.

"Just by looking at the questions we formulate [based on the benchmarks], they go back to the classroom and come up with similar questions and encourage students to participate as well," Arriola said.

There were four practice rounds conducted in November, December and January. PSS noted over 500 competitors in each preliminary event. Saturday's 375 participants in the regional competition were the first to fifth place winners in

those events.

In terms of performance, organization, and people who came and supported the event, PSS is convinced that Mathcourt is getting better every year.

"We're very happy and proud that we're getting positive result from Mathcourt," Arriola said, adding that the event is a good experience for the students to enjoy math competitively.

There were 70-80 teachers and parent volunteers in Saturday's events. Arriola said that teachers from Tinian Elementary School were also present to observe and prepare for their participation next year. Tinian Elementary has never been in the Saipan Mathcourt contest.

Fifth grader Art Nathanael Borromeo, who competed in

the final's numbers and algebra for San Vicente Elementary School, described the contest rounds as "very challenging."

"It was challenging...but fun. I've been joining Mathcourt since my first grade...and I can say that the experience is very rewarding because you're giving your best," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

The 11-year-old boy said he will continue to participate in the event to become more competitive.

Jaymee Caguioa, a fourth grader from SVES, said her constant participation in the Mathcourt helped her better understand mathematical lessons in school.

She competed in algebra and data statistics and probability events.

PSS has set the regional Mathcourt rounds for sixth through 12th graders next week.

LABOR

From Page 2

Cody also granted Jin another opportunity to transfer and allowed her to work for B&J provided that B&J follows the rules and procedures of the Labor

Division of Employment Services with respect to the evaluation of the transfer application.

"Both parties are reminded that Shunyu cannot begin actually working for B&J until a conditional grant of transfer is approved by Labor," he added.

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Online organ transplant broker charged with wire fraud

SYRACUSE, N.Y.—Jerome Howard Feldman appeared Friday in U.S. District Court in Guam to address wire fraud charges pending in the Northern District of New York, following his arrest on Feb. 2, 2009 in Manila, Philippines, for immigration violations.

According to Andrew T. Baxter, acting U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of New York, and Leonardo M. Rapadas, U.S. Attorney for the Districts of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands, Feldman was indicted by a federal grand jury in Syracuse, N.Y., on Feb. 11, 2009, for allegedly carrying out a scheme to defraud desperately-ill victims who paid large sums of money and traveled to the Philippines based on false promises from Feldman that they would receive organ transplants.

Feldman on Friday admitted his identity before U.S. Magistrate Judge Joaquin V.E. Manibusan, and will be flown to Syracuse to face the wire fraud charges.

The investigation of Feldman began on June 26, 2008, when the DeWitt, N.Y., Police Dept. received a complaint from a woman concerning an organ transplant broker. Based on information on the Website “www.liver4you.org,” the woman communicated by e-mail with a “Dr. Mitch Michaelson,” who induced her husband to travel to a Philippine hospital to receive a liver transplant.

The victims were persuaded to transfer by wire, a total of \$70,000 into an account in the name of “Alberto Gomez” at a bank in DeWitt, which “Dr. Michaelson” promised would cover all

medical bills for the transplant procedure. “Dr. Michaelson” also specifically identified another doctor who would be performing the organ transplant in the Philippines. On July 11, 2008, the husband died of liver failure at a Philippines hospital without receiving a transplant.

Doctors treating the husband told the victim that nobody at the hospital had ever heard of “Dr. Mitch Michaelson” and that the doctor identified by

“Dr. Michaelson” would not have performed the transplant surgery, as the victim had been promised. After her husband’s death, “Dr. Michaelson” stopped all communication with the victim. Additionally, the widow was required to pay in excess of \$20,000 in hospital fees incurred from her husband’s hospitalization in the Philippines, which “Dr. Michaelson” had falsely promised to cover with the funds wired at his direction.

Following a joint investigation by members of the DeWitt Police Dept.,

the Albany Division of the FBI and the New York State Police, several other victims of the same organ transplant scheme were located. In total, approximately \$400,000 was wired into the “Gomez” account in the DeWitt bank account by victims of the scheme. The investigation also revealed that “Dr. Mitch Michaelson” and “Alberto Gomez” were aliases of Jerome Howard Feldman, a U.S. citizen living illegally in Manila, Philippines, under the name “Michael Adams.” (*U.S. Department of Justice/PRNewswire/USNewswire*)

COURT

From Page 1

plaint and none of her attachments in the lawsuit indicate that Baka did anything other than offer advice to a client, Huesman argued.

Sablan had filed the lawsuit to force the administration to disclose its funding sources for its lawsuit against the federal government, where it seeks to stop the federal takeover of the Commonwealth’s immigration system.

She asked the court to issue an order mandating Fitial, Inos, and Baka to fulfill their obligations under CNMI law by making available the requested materials within 48 hours of the court’s decision.

Sablan asserted that the refusal of the defendants to disclose records identifying funding sources and contracts connected to the lawsuit that has been filed on behalf of the CNMI people is a violation of the Open Government Act.

In their motion to dismiss, Huesman said Baka could not have violated the OGA as no request was made of him.

Huesman said Sablan sent two letters, one to Fitial and one to Inos.

“No other requests, according to the face of the complaint and its exhibits, were ever made,” the lawyer said.

As no request was made of Baka, Huesman said, it is impossible to hold

him responsible for not complying with the OGA.

The government lawyer said there is only one factual allegation against Baka, that he wrote a letter refusing Sablan’s OGA request made to Fitial.

Huesman said the sole basis for Sablan’s claims against Baka, therefore, must be in his capacity as attorney and provider of legal advice.

“It is improper to maintain a suit against an attorney for giving legal advice (outside of the obvious malpractice suit),” he said.

Huesman branded as an “improper request” Sablan’s prayer to hold Fitial, Baka, and Inos personally liable for all costs awarded to her in connection with her lawsuit, in addition to any civil penalties deemed reasonable by the court.

He said the individual defendants are not personally liable for any alleged violations of the OGA as it pertains to document requests.

Huesman also asserted that to the extent required, defendants are entitled to qualified immunity from the lawsuit.

He said qualified immunity is available to officials “who err in their duties so long as the mistake is one that a ‘reasonable’ officer could have made.”

Sablan has yet to file her response to the motion to dismiss.

Associate Judge David A. Wiseman set the hearing for the motion on March 26 at 1:30pm.

GREEN

From Page 1

essential service to our CNMI customers,” said USCIS District Director David Gulick, who is based in Honolulu. “It makes sense for us to do as much as we can to serve the community through this local office. Now customers will save the time, effort and expense of traveling to Guam for their interviews.”

USCIS said that applicants from Tinian, Rota and Saipan seeking U.S. Lawful Permanent Residence or “green cards” will be now be scheduled for interviews at the new office.

In addition to the traditional ASC biometric services such as fingerprinting, the Saipan office already offers expanded services including general immigration information and naturalization interviews. Now “green card” interviews will be added to those services.

Customers interested in speaking to an immigration services officer should make an “InfoPass” appointment online at www.uscis.gov. Customers with appointments will receive priority.

People can call the toll-free USCIS customer service line at (800) 375-5283.

In addition, the most current information about federal immigration in relation to the CNMI can be accessed via the USCIS Press Room at www.uscis.gov.

USCIS is the agency within the U.S. Department of Homeland Security that provides immigration benefits.

Currently U.S. immigration law only applies to immediate relatives of U.S. citizens as defined within the Immigration and Nationality Act. U.S. immigration law in general will be applied to the CNMI, with the transition period currently scheduled to begin on June 1, 2009.

In a recent visit by DHS officials on island, they disclosed that after the transition period, only two status will be honored: immigrant and non-immigrant status. At present, there are hundreds of individuals who are in the immediate relative status as provided by the local CNMI law.

The officials also confirmed that there is no direct path to obtaining green cards for long-time non-immigrant workers on island.

They also discounted the myths about an “organic” type of federalization, citing it has already happened before and has been ongoing in the Commonwealth since 1986.

FRIENDS

From Page 1

“I was really excited to receive the dawn telephone call from Wendy Chavez at EPA, telling us that Friends of the Monument would be recognized as an award winner,” Mack said. “I nominated the community organization for special recognition because the Friends worked hard and its members put their hearts and souls into the campaign for a monument. The Friends efforts directly contributed to the eventual designation of the monument by President Bush.”

The award is open to people and groups who are working all across California, Arizona, Nevada, Hawaii, the Pacific Islands and tribal lands to protect public health and the environment. This year over 200 nominations were made, but only 40 winners will be recognized.

“It is an honor to be recognized by the EPA for our work. This is an award the Friends will share with all our supporters, especially the Pew Environment Group,” said Friends chair Ignacio V. Cabrera.

On Jan. 6, 2009, then-President George W. Bush declared 190,000 square miles of ocean as marine monuments, closing parts of them to mining and commercial fishing, including the 95,000 square mile Marianas Trench Marine National Monument.

The Friends of the Monument were the main local proponents of the Marian-

as Trench Marine National Monument. They worked to build and showcase local support to convince Bush to declare a monument around the three northernmost islands in the Marianas archipelago.

“In less than a year, the Friends of the Monument grew from an idea into the most powerful grassroots movement in the Mariana Islands,” said Jay Nelson, director of Global Ocean Legacy with the Pew Environment Group. “It was amazing to see a such an outpouring of genuine support for the marine environment.”

The Friends of the Monument waged an old-fashioned door-to-door grassroots campaign to build support for the monument.

Wesley Bogdan, a local attorney and one of the Friends of the Monument, said of the monument declaration, “The creation of the monument shows that the system can work, that the people actually do have the ability to affect their government to some degree. The Friends of the Monument’s hard work and receipt of this award from EPA can help spread that message and hopefully encourage more people to get involved and work on projects important to their community.”

Initially local leaders were not receptive to the idea of a marine monument so the Friends started a petition drive and, with the help of 60 volunteer petitions gatherers, collected over 6,000 signatures from local residents.

They also made presentations to local junior high school, high school, and college students, which resulted in over

500 handwritten support letters being sent to President Bush.

During a White House sponsored workshop, the Friends recruited over 400 supporters to attend. Most were wearing orange, as the workshop took place during the Friend’s sponsored WOW Week – Wear Orange Week.

They worked with the local business community and signed 206 businesses on to support the monument, including the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, Hotel Association of Northern Mariana Islands, Tan Holdings, DFS, and McDonalds.

They also organized a letter writing campaign in support of the monument. Over 100 current and former community leaders sent letters to Bush in support of the monument. Constitution writers Dr. Joaquin A. Tenorio and Karl T. Reyes and business leaders David M. Sablan and Manny S. Villagomez were among the prominent letter writers.

Officers of the group also traveled to Washington, D.C. on two occasions to meet with federal officials and national media outlets.

Mike Tripp, a local dive operator, has this to say about the grassroots campaign: “If it were not for the Friends of the Monument, the monument designation would never have happened. The organization stands as proof that individuals coming together for a common cause can truly effect positive change in their own backyard, and also for the benefit of the planet.”

The Friends of the Monument was formed in the Spring of 2008. (*PR*)

NJFL

From Page 1

pants in the competition’s nine events that took place from the rigorous morning rounds through the final sets that ended at 6pm.

Grace Christian Academy’s Anastasia Schweiger ruled the impromptu speaking competition, getting the jurors’ unanimous decision and advancing to the national contest.

She, together with teammate Kahra Atalig, got another gold medal when they won first place in the duo competition rounds.

Anne Gelika Elenzano of Mount Carmel School also wowed the crowd, bagging two gold medal awards for her impressive performances in the dramatic interpretation and poetry reading divisions.

Another crowd favorite from Marianas Baptist Academy, Eunice Park, got two gold medals in extemporaneous speaking and original oratory events.

Glen Florendo of GCA will also be part of the national team to advance in the Lincoln Douglas debate after his persuasive performance in the final rounds.

Calvary Christian Academy’s Emily Dotts hope to bring the CNMI national honor in the humorous interpretation

category after being adjudged champion in this particular event Saturday.

Judges also noted the outstanding performance of Zelika Joyner from Chacha Oceanview in the prose final rounds.

Two-time delegate to national contest Anastasia Schweiger said it is always her goal to give her best shot in all competitions she joins in.

“This is so exciting and breathtaking!” she told *Saipan Tribune*, admitting that it was hard to compete with friends but the experience was both enjoyable and worth it.

Schweiger has been an NJFL contestant since sixth grade. “I look forward to this chance to be in the national again because I love to meet people and learn valuable experiences from them.”

The student admitted that the local events have developed her discipline and her character as a whole.

“When you join NJFL, you would really learn about discipline. You must be on time, prepared, and most importantly you will learn the value of hard work,” she added.

MBA’s Eunice Park said the local and national competitions have brought her memorable moments in life.

“I’ve been given the opportunity to travel in the States for the first time because of NJFL. That’s something very memorable for me. The whole experi-

ence was great!” Park said.

According to Andrew Golden, tabroom coordinator for NFL and Western Pacific region, those who get more than one gold medal will be given the chance to choose the category where they will compete in at the national level. Silver medalists to unselected events will automatically be named alternates for the national contests.

NFL and NJFL are organized by the National Forensic League Board in collaboration with Public School System.

To qualify for the regional contest, participants must be ribbon or gold medal winners in the four preliminary rounds in the school year.

Last Saturday, nine schools were in the final sets: CCA, MBA, Saipan Community School, Eucon International, GCA, MCS, San Vicente Elementary School, Hopwood Junior High School, and Chacha Oceanview Jr. High.

The CNMI competitions began some 10 years ago and every year the number of participants just keep growing.

Organizers began adopting the national format rules and patterns since last year to better prepare students for the national events.

Last week, 14 students were also selected as official NMI delegates to NFL national contests slated for June this year.

NMC instructors overloaded, says faculty prexy

12 positions need to be filled immediately

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Due to the lack of instructional staff at the Northern Marianas College, many instructors are "overloaded," or are teaching beyond the 15 credit hours they are supposed to handle, according to honorary faculty regent Frank Sobolewski.

He said that, without full-time

instructors available, it makes it difficult for faculty members to plan for curriculum and schedule classes for enrollees.

Currently, the college has 33 instructors and most are handling additional classes to ensure that students are getting the required credits for their programs and courses.

Sobolewski cited two factors that contribute to the lack of

instructional workforce: budget and unqualified candidates or applicants for the positions.

Based on the list of job announcements at NMC, there are 12 vacant positions for instructors, Sobolewski said. NMC has six academic departments.

For the business department, three positions are up for grabs: accounting/business instructor, computer application instructor, and the department chair position formerly occupied by Eric Plinske, who retired last year.

Three instructors are also needed for the science, mathematics,

health and athletic department, including a health and PE instructor, math instructor, and a medical science class instructor.

At the social sciences and the fine arts department which Sobolewski chairs, two positions need to be filled: social science instructor and psychology instructor.

Two English instructors are needed by the languages and humanities department, where majority of instructors are handling overloaded credits.

Saipan Tribune learned that NMC also needs a department chair for the nursing department following the retirement of Lynne Curtis.

For the school education department, one instructor is needed as well as a disability counselor for special education.

"Without full time instructors available, it makes it difficult for us to plan curriculums and schedule courses for students and the workload. Currently, faculty members get overloaded with tests, with program review, teaching in the class, reviewing and revising course guides and other things. They get overloaded with these because there are no faculty to share the load with...it's one important concern we want to address here," he told Saipan Tribune.

Sobolewski said any instructor who has beyond 15 credit hours per semester is considered

overloaded.

"Inability to fill the faculty vacancies definitely will hurt quality education at NMC. There is no doubt about it. In some cases, not filling these posts is due to budget...but in some cases we have a hard time getting the qualified candidates," the faculty senate president said.

Admitting that the situation has been there for quite some time, Sobolewski described the college's hiring pace as "very slow."

"Our hiring decision making process here is too slow and needs to be speeded up and made more efficient. We spend too much time on the process," he said, adding that advertisement of the vacancies must also be enforced in a wider range.

Kato seeks re-investigation

Since the Public Defender's Office cannot represent him, Japanese businessman Hideo Kato said he has no choice but to represent himself in court in his fight against allegations of hosting illegal gambling on Saipan.

As this developed, the 72-year-old Kato appealed to the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Office of the Attorney General to re-investigate the case.

Kato told Saipan Tribune that during the March 11 status conference hearing, Superior Court associate judge Kenneth Govenado advised him to hire a lawyer because it is a complicated case.

"But I cannot afford to pay a lawyer anymore! I hope one lawyer on the island will help me for free, but until now no one [has done so]," he said.

Kato said the Japanese Consulate also cannot help him get a lawyer.

"Now, I'm the lawyer for myself. No one can say to me to shut up," the businessman said.

After reviewing all the documents provided by the prosecution to his former lawyer, he said the reports contained "inconsistencies." Kato wonders why he was not charged in federal court when illegal gambling is a federal offense.

"I hope that the Office of the Attorney General will conduct a re-investigation in this case. I am also very willing to see the FBI," the businessman said.

Another status conference was set for April 16. The jury trial will be on Oct. 12, 2009.

Kato's first lawyer, Antonio M. Atalig, is in jail for civil contempt. His second counsel, attorney Victorino Torres, withdrew as his lawyer.

He earlier said that there was never any intent to operate an illegal gambling joint as their goal was to put up a "charity casino" to help the poor people on Saipan pay their electric bills.

Kato spent eight days at the Department of Corrections after the Attorney General's Investigative Unit raided an alleged illegal casino at the Victoria Hotel in western Garapan on Aug. 24, 2007.

The Attorney General's Office charged Kato and businessman Byoong Seob Choi with 119 counts of illegal gambling activity and unlawful employment of aliens. Choi recently pleaded a "no contest" to two counts of unlawful employment of aliens. He was sentenced to three years of probation. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

Board's legal opinion on Agnes McPhetres' retention delayed

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The anticipated opinion of the Board of Regents' legal counsels on the retention of Agnes McPhetres in the board has been delayed, according to its chairman, Charles V. Cepeda.

The opinion, he said, was supposed to be out early last week.

"As of today, no legal advice or opinion on Regent McPhetres' issue was submitted. We're notified that it's still being reviewed carefully and we're taking some issues into consideration," he told Saipan Tribune Friday.

Cepeda had sought the opinion

after Gov. Benigno R. Fitial informed him that he didn't receive nor accepted McPhetres' resignation letter. That letter, which McPhetres later rescinded, was the basis of the board's decision to consider her no longer part of the board during its last meeting.

Cepeda said the board has set a temporary schedule for its next meeting on March 30 to discuss, finalize, and accept the report to the accreditation commission due on April 1.

When asked if the board will "invite" McPhetres to its next meeting, the chair said he plans to resolve the issue with the former regent before the scheduled meeting.

"I am hoping to get the legal opinion before that and resolve once and for all her status on the board," he said.

Honorary faculty regent Frank Sobolewski said Friday the signature petition supporting McPhetres' retention on the board was stopped following the board's "rejection" of the petition.

He said that, although the board chair had recommended that it be submitted to the governor, this may not happen.

Fitial earlier reiterated his wish for McPhetres to remain on the board, citing her long experience at the college. Being a former college president and a member of the ac-

creditation commission, Fitial said, would help NMC get out from its current show-cause status with the accrediting commission.

McPhetres had resigned from her post, citing "issues" she has with the management style of college president Dr. Carmen Fernandez.

NMC hired Fernandez as its chief executive officer in 2007. Her two-year contract is set to expire May or June this year.

BOR chair Cepeda declined to discuss and comment about her possible renewal, citing it's the board's focus to meet accreditation requirements at present. He said the president's evaluation is up in June.

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<p>2006 Hyundai Accent GL 4-cylinder, AT, fuel efficient. \$8,995</p>	<p>2006 Hyundai Accent GLS 4-cylinder, AT, low miles. \$9,995</p>	<p>2004 Mazda B4000 SE 4x4, AT, CabPlus. \$10,995</p>	<p>2005 Mitsubishi Lancer Ralliart 5-speed, MT, all power, alloy wheels. \$11,995</p>
<p>2005 Toyota Corolla CE 4-cylinder, AT, fuel efficient, all power. \$11,995</p>	<p>2005 Mazda 6 4-cylinder, AT, all power. Great deal! \$11,995</p>	<p>2008 Mazda 3i Less than 9,000 miles! Like new! \$14,995</p>	<p>2008 Mitsubishi Lancer GTS 5-speed, MT, low miles. \$16,995</p>

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NMHC posts \$18.4M loan receivables in FY'07

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Housing Corp. posted \$18.4 million in total principal loan receivables in Fiscal Year 2007, based on an audit report recently issued by the Commonwealth Development Authority.

The housing agency, which is an umbrella organization of the CDA, recorded \$11.9 million in loan receivables from its direct family home loans and \$3.7 million from its Home Investment Partnerships Act grant—

the biggest receivable items listed on its audit report.

The corporation also had \$1.4 million to be collected under the general loan category; \$552,000 from housing construction; \$500,000 from the Tinian turnkey; \$46,000 from the housing reservation grant; \$82,000 from the home revenue bond; and \$168,000 from the Section 8 housing choice vouchers program.

NMHC makes loans for the specific purpose of providing residents with approved low-cost housing. These loans have

terms from 10 to 35 years in duration at interest rates that range from 4.5 percent to 12 percent.

The report showed that of the \$18.4 million receivables, \$1.5 million are considered fully matured loans.

With maturities of one to six months, NMHC has \$551,635 receivable; \$1.1 million with 7-18 months maturity; \$1.5 million matured in 19 months to three years; and \$13.6 million from those that mature after three years.

The audit report also indicated that, by the end of FY

2007, the housing agency had a note payable to Marianas Public Land Trust amounting to \$8.9 million, bearing interest at 8.5 percent per year and due in March 2016.

CNMI Public Law 12-27 approved the repayment of the loan through legislative appropriation of operating transfers to the general fund of the government from the investment income of MPLT.

Saipan Tribune learned that operating transfers to the general fund reduce NMHC's liability to MPLT and repayment of the loan principal were initially deferred for a period of 10 years. However, through Public Law 15-48 the 10-year repayment moratorium on NMHC was lifted and required the housing corporation to begin making

loan payments to MPLT.

'\$6.1M restricted cash'

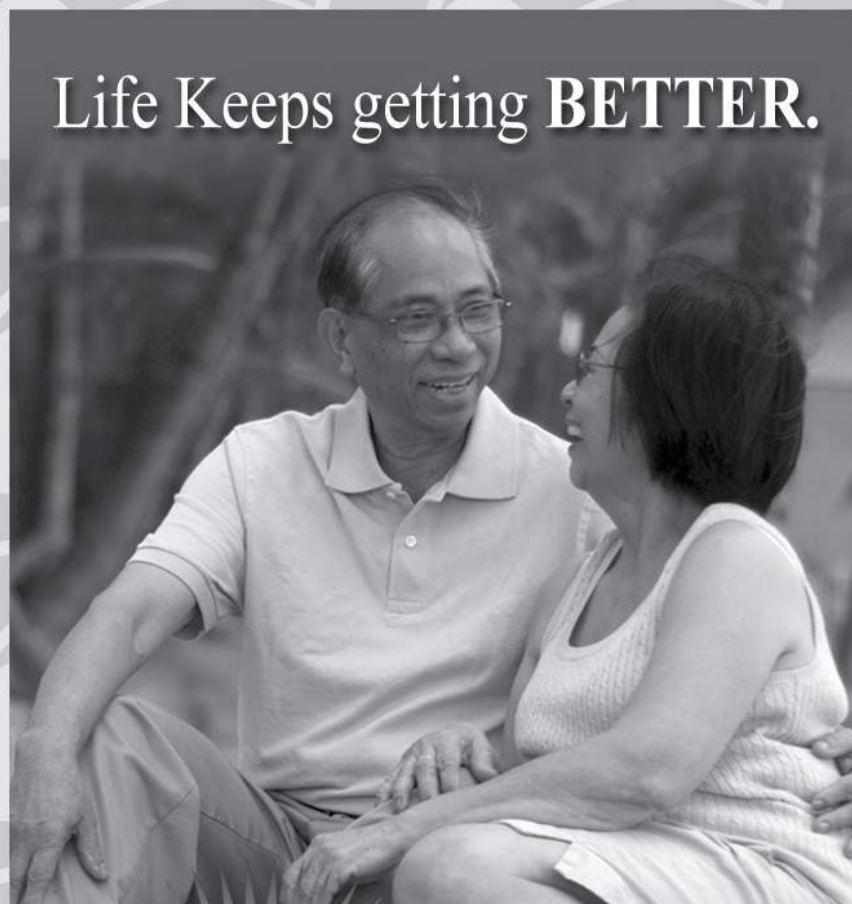
NMC maintains depository accounts with financial institutions that are restricted for various purposes. As of September 2007 and 2006, restricted cash and cash equivalents amounted to \$6.1 million in 2007 and \$5.2 million in 2006 respectively.

The \$6.1 million for FY 2007 included an escrow account maintained as a guarantee for any deficiency in foreclosure proceeds related to the U.S. Farmers Home Administration loans, which amounts to \$256,872; a savings account restricted for the Koblerville Section 8 project, \$196,425; guarantee for housing loans, \$74,888; MPLT collateral account, \$1.04 million; time certificates of deposit

for the MPLT loan program, \$2.6 million; checking account maintained for Section 8 housing choice voucher program, \$1.6 million; and other depository accounts reserved for other purposes, \$263,082.

The report indicated that of these accounts, \$135,358 and \$145,338 in FY 2007 and 2006 were FDIC insured.

In FY 2006, NMHC had \$255,588 in escrow account for U.S. Farmers Home Administration loans; \$196,033 for the Koblerville project; \$93,172 for housing loan guarantees; \$2 million for MPLT collateral account; \$1.07 million in MPLT loan program; \$907,649 in collateral account for defaulted loans; and \$624,368 for other depository accounts reserved for various purposes.



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Poker arcades used as meeting places by alleged 'ice' suppliers

Poker arcades were used as meeting places by two of three suspected suppliers of crystal methamphetamine or "ice" who were arrested last week.

Court documents state that Juan Diego C. Matagolai handed \$200 worth of "ice" to an undercover police officer and a "cooperating source" at JL Poker Arcade in Dandan. Benedicto R. Lizama allegedly used Kagman Market Poker Room as his meeting place with a "cooperating source."

Detective Peter Raymond Camacho stated that on Jan. 22, 2009, a "cooperating source" placed a call to a suspected "ice" supplier and ordered \$200 worth of "ice."

After the call, Camacho said the undercover officer and

the "cooperating source" proceeded to JL Poker Arcade in Dandan where the transaction took place.

The "ice" supplier that allegedly sent Matagolai to the poker arcade to hand over the drug, has not been arrested yet.

In Lizama's case, Detective Steven A. Castro said the "cooperating source" met with Lizama at the Kagman Market Poker Room where they talked about buying \$300 worth of "ice."

After the deal, Castro said, Lizama directed the "cooperating source" to proceed to a place in San Vicente where he handed the "ice."

A third defendant, Eddie M. Fleming, allegedly sold \$200 worth of "ice" to an undercover officer and a "cooperating

source" in Dandan Homestead.

Fleming, 51, Lizama, 57, and Matagolai, 29, were arrested Thursday and brought to the Superior Court Friday for a bail hearing. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

Local toddler to be featured in nat'l baby book



Mariassabella

MariaIssabella Josephina Camacho has been chosen to be featured in the 2009 Edition of *The Most Beautiful Babies In America!*

She was selected out of more than a hundred thousands photos that have been submitted for the first edition of this year's *The Most Beautiful Babies In America*.

MariaIssabella's photo was entered through an agency that is representing her in various auditions in Dallas, Texas. She made her first national appearance at the Pretty Little Princess Pageant that was held in Addison, Texas, late last year, where she walked away with the Best in FunWear and Best Personality Awards.

MariaIssabella was born on Nov. 9, 2006, in Dallas, Texas, to Juanita Camacho. Her maternal grandparents were the late Antonio and Maria Camacho from Saipan. *(PR)*

DISCONNECTION NOTICE

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House panel revisits CUC privatization plan anew

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communication is once again focusing on the privatization of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

In December, Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider introduced a bill that would amend parts of Public Law 16-17. That law set the price tag of the utility agency at \$250 million. Hofschneider's House Bill 16-204 removes the price tag and clarifies what defines a "U.S. certified contractor."

House Speaker Arnold Palacios on Friday said it's important that competent consultants are hired to help with the

'New budget will help the Legislative Bureau'

With the new Fiscal Year 2009 budget law, the Legislative Bureau will feel some sense of relief in terms of operational costs, LB director Glenna SP Reyes said.

Under the new law, the bureau's budget is \$1.37 million for personnel and \$240,000 for non-personnel, for a total of \$1.61 million.

The bureau's budget had been under the continuing resolution at \$1.8 million (\$1.7 million for personnel and \$105,000 for non-personnel). Subsequently, the budget was reduced to \$1.4 million (\$1.4 million for personnel and \$89,000 for non-personnel) and further reduced in December 2008 due to declining revenue. In December, it was reduced to \$1.38 million (\$1.3 million for personnel and \$80,000 for non-personnel).

"The initial reduction of our budget required the bureau to reduce salaries, which the bureau addressed in December 2008 when contracts of all administrative staff were renewed. The subsequent reduction of bureau funding called for further reduction in salaries, thus the reduction of all professional staff that was effectuated in February 2009," Reyes said.

The additional funding for non-personnel was needed because \$80,000 was not enough, she said.

"This amount was simply insufficient for operational expenses, so the enactment of the 2009 budget is a relief because the bureau will now have sufficient operational funding," she added.

Because personnel funding is at the same level, restoring old salary levels is not an option at this time, she said.

Reyes said full time employee numbers have been reduced from 36 to 27 through attrition, with some positions phased out since 2008. (Kristi Eaton)

privatization effort.

"We believe we need to begin to set standards for some of these consultants we have to hire," he said, "so we know they're well qualified. Since we are a U.S. jurisdiction it makes sense to make sure it is U.S. qualified."

If it an international company is hired, it is important they are a reputable company, he added.

The price tag is something else that is being discussed, Palacios said. One of the reasons Gov. Benigno Fitial vetoed the privatization bill (which was subsequently passed into law when the Legislature overrode the veto), saying the \$250 million price tag would lead to higher utility rates. Any company that ends up buying CUC, he said, would try to recover the \$250 million and other purchase costs by passing them on to utility consumers.

Hofschneider's HB 16-204 will remove that price tag.

"Regardless of a \$2 price tag, or \$250 million, or half a million, we're going to say what was the market appraisal on a fair market value of the fran-

chise. The exclusively part of power generation in the Commonwealth," Palacios said.

Being the one and only power producer in the Commonwealth is valuable, the speaker said.

Although, at this point in time, he said the exclusivity factor may not increase the value.

"Maybe at this point in time it might not increase it because the customer base has gone down," he said. "But still, if you look at value over a 25 year period — to be the only one to authorize power to all consumers in the Commonwealth. What is

the value of say 30 years or 40 years? From there then we can talk about power rates."

He said the time span would help determine the price structure because the company will want to get a return on their investment.

The price tag, he added, was too specific.

"It could go either way. If it were more valuable, the Commonwealth would have lost out. If it was less, possibly investors will not be interested. Those are the issues we need to clarify."

They are also looking at clari-



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday greetings go out to Tisha Magofna, who is celebrating her 15th birthday today. May you have many more to come! Greetings come from your Basa family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

fying some of the alternative energy mandates in the law.

"We had discussion which

clarified it and pointed out some provisions to make it unambiguous," Palacios added.

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iCONNECT

Cosmo travel supplement to feature Saipan

Cosmopolitan, a monthly fashion magazine, will produce a supplement titled "Cosmopolitan Travel" in conjunction with its July 2009 issue. The Korean-language edition of this supplement will include information about Saipan, focusing on water sports and other adventure activities, hotels and resorts, restaurants, bars, and shopping. From March 23-27 two report-

ers will visit Saipan to gather first-hand information.

The *Cosmopolitan* reporters will experience numerous attractions on Saipan during their visit. They will visit hotels, restaurants, spas, shops and night spots, as well as take a trip to Managaha Island for a first-hand familiarity with water sports and activities. Special tours of the

island are also planned.

"*Cosmopolitan* is one of the best selling young women's magazines," noted Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio. "The Korean market is very important to us, and we believe that the young women of Korea will be very interested in all that Saipan has to offer."

Cosmopolitan, published by

Hearst Magazines, has 58 international editions and is printed in 34 languages. The magazine is distributed in more than 100 countries. It was first published in Korea in 2000. Thirty thousand copies of this 34-page *Cosmopolitan* travel supplement will be distributed with its regular circulation of 100,000. The estimated value of the coverage is \$102,000 US. (MVA)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Covenant Day Debate today

The 7th Annual Covenant Day Debate will be held this afternoon, March 23, at the CNMI Supreme Court chamber. The action starts at 3pm.

Finalists in junior and senior division will debate the resolve "U.S. Public Law 110-229 violates the CNMI's right of self-government under Section 103 of the Covenant."

The NMI Council for the Humanities, which sponsors this event annually, invites the general public to attend this entertaining and

thought provoking event. (PR)

Free Webinar on grant writing

There will be a free Webinar on grant writing that is being offered to students and early career professionals tomorrow, March 24, 2009, from 5:30am to 7am. This Webinar is courtesy of the Association of University Centers on Disability, with local coordinators NMC CDI-UCEDD program. Interested in joining? Contact John or Carol at 234-5498 ext. 1010/1019/1005. (PR)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

March 23, 1999

DFS business slid by 30-plus percent

With the projected decline in revenue collection, the CNMI government must immediately reduce working hours to give the business sector a sense of partnership amid the financial crisis besetting the Northern Marianas, according to Marian Aldan-Pierce, president of DFS Saipan. Declining tourist arrivals and gloomy consumer outlook led DFS Saipan business to slid by more than 30 percent compared to 1997. As a result, management had to reduce the number of employees by attrition, consolidated positions, cut down on expenses to bare necessities, reduced working hours and eliminated some benefits. Although the shop's area had expanded, management only hired 50 percent of the staff it originally planned.

Board accepts McPhetres' resignation

The Board of Regents has unanimously approved and accepted the retirement plan (essentially a resignation) of NMC President Agnes McPhetres during the executive session held yesterday. The acceptance of the resignation came amidst calls from faculty and students urging rejection of McPhetres' plans to retire. In the same meeting, the Board also accepted her proposal to appoint an acting president while she takes her leave in August, the press statement said. According to Chairman Manuel Sablan, the board will name the acting president in the next two weeks who will take charge of the daily operations at the Northern Marianas College. In an interview, he said the board is looking at the three incumbent vice-presidents as possible candidates for the acting post. However, interested individuals should apply for the job, he added.

March 23, 2000

AG rejects request to investigate CUC

The Attorney General's Office has thumbed down an appeal by former Commonwealth Utilities Corp. Board Chairperson Rosario M. Elameto who sought its legal opinion on her recent ouster as head of the policy-making body for possible violation of existing laws. "We don't give opinions on matters like that," said acting Attorney General Herb Soll in an interview yesterday. "I couldn't take that one for obvious reason." He said his office would not represent her if Ms. Elameto decides to bring the issue to court, adding that she should hire a private lawyer to pursue the case.

Market forces, higher NMI taxes driving fuel prices up

While external market forces are driving pump prices of petroleum products up, the taxation system in the Northern Marianas is putting more pressure on oil companies to sell fuel in their service stations at a higher cost. At present, the CNMI government imposes 15 percent in excise tax for every gallon of fuel. This means that car owners may have actually been paying \$0.3 more per gallon of regular and premium gas whenever they would fill up. Although no comparative data from other Micronesian countries were immediately available, businessmen and commerce officials said this is way too high, thus aggravates the effects of high world prices of fuel.

March 23, 2001

Rita Inos is Fitial's running mate

Strengthening its campaign platform to make education for all a priority, Covenant Party has chosen known educator and Public School System Commissioner Rita H. Inos to run with House Speaker Benigno R. Fitial in the November general polls. Well-placed sources from Covenant Party confirmed that Dr. Inos will run for lieutenant governor to fortify the political group's victory in what seems to be the most hotly-contested election in the Northern Marianas. The tandem of Speaker Fitial and Dr. Inos completes the party's program to alleviate the economic condition of the Northern Marianas through strengthened and improved access to quality education for all.

DPS probes involvement of police captain in drug case

The commander of the Criminal Investigation Bureau never thought he would ever be a subject of investigation by the same office that he leads. Incriminated by a court witness of his alleged participation in an illegal drug business deal, Police Captain Delbert Sablan has been placed under probe by the Department of Public Safety. Police Commissioner Charles W. Ingram Jr. ordered yesterday the start of the investigation, temporarily relieving the CIB official from his command.



DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH MARCH 2009



"CREATING COMMUNITIES OF THE FUTURE"



TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2009 - ROTA

Traumatic Brain Injury 101

Presenter: Thomas J. Camacho, SADPP
Venue: As Paris (ROTA)
Time: 8:30am - 10:00am

Serving Customers with Disabilities: "Train Hospitality Industry Workers"

Presenter: Thomas J. Camacho, SADPP
Venue: As Paris (ROTA)
Time: 10:00am - 11:30am

Lunch Break: 11:30am - 1:00pm

Behavioralist: "Questions & Answers"

Facilitator: Lynn Corella, Behavior Specialist, Public School system
Venue: As Paris (ROTA)
Time: 1:00pm - 3:00pm

Note: Please call the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities at 664-7000/1/3 or cell at 285-7261 to register. Seating is limited. Go to www.cnmicdd.org for more information.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2009 - ROTA

Sensitivity Training for Housing Authority Officials/Landlords & Transportation Service Providers

Presenter: Ray Diaz, Program Officer, CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities
Venue: TBA (ROTA)
Time: 8:00am - 4:00pm

FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 2009 - TINIAN

Sensitivity Training for Housing Authority Officials/Landlords & Transportation Service Providers

Presenter: Ray Diaz, Program Officer, CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities
Venue: TBA (TINIAN)
Time: TBA

Traumatic Brain Injury 101

Presenter: Thomas J. Camacho, SADPP
Venue: Flemings (TINIAN)
Time: 8:30am - 9:45am

Serving Customers with Disabilities: "Train Hospitality Industry Workers"

Presenter: Thomas J. Camacho, SADPP
Venue: Flemings (TINIAN)
Time: 10:00am - 11:30am

Lunch Break: 11:30am - 1:00pm

Speech Language

Conducted by: Laura Bucknel, Speech Pathologist, Public School System
Venue: Fleming's (TINIAN)
Time: 1:00pm - 2:00pm

Behavioralist: "Questions & Answers"

Conducted by: Lynn Corella, Behavior Specialist, Public School System
Venue: Flemings (TINIAN)
Time: 2:15pm - 3:00pm

Note: Please call the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities at 664-7000/1/3 or cell at 285-7261 to register. Seating is limited. Go to www.cnmicdd.org for more information.

MONDAY, MARCH 23, 2009

Classroom Observation - Observe school programs for students with Autism and other Developmental Disabilities and make recommendations about instruction, behavior management and curriculum.

Kent R. Logan, Ph.D., Autism Specialist for Dekalb County Schools, Atlanta, Georgia
Venue(s): CNMI Public School System (SAIPAN)
Time: 8:00am - 4:00pm

TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 2009

Meet the Families - Conduct consultation to families of children with Autism and other Developmental Disabilities and provide suggestions and strategies to families.

Kent R. Logan, Ph.D., Autism Specialist for Dekalb County Schools, Atlanta, Georgia
Venue: Saipan World Resort
Time: 8:00am - 8:15am

Note: Please call the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities at 664-7000/1/3 or cell 285-7261 to register. Seating is limited. Go to www.cnmicdd.org for more information.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2009

Welcoming Remarks By Pamela C. Sablan, Executive Director, CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities

Time: 8:00am - 8:15am

An Overview of the CNMI Developmental Disabilities Network "Tri-Agency"

David Attao, Director, Northern Marianas College-University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities
Venue: Saipan World Resort
Time: 8:15am - 9:15am

Meet Your Service Providers/Exhibitors

PANELISTS: Public School Systems, Special Education, Social Security Office, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, Medicaid, Workforce Investment Agency, Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc.
Venue: Saipan World Resort
Time: 9:30am - 11:30am

Lunch Break: 11:30am - 1:00pm

Keynote Address by Kent R. Logan, Ph.D. Autism Specialist for Dekalb County Schools, Atlanta, Georgia
Time: 1:00pm - 1:30pm

"Characteristics of Autism and Strategies for Teaching Skills and Managing Problem Behavior"

Kent R. Logan, Ph.D. Autism Specialist for Dekalb County Schools, Atlanta, Georgia
Venue: Saipan World Resort
Time: 1:30pm - 4:30pm

Note: Please call the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities at 664-7000/1/3 or cell 285-7261 to register. Seating is limited. Go to www.cnmicdd.org for more information.

THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2009

Self-Advocacy - "Everyone Should Be An Advocate"

Presenter: Jim Rayphand, Director, Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc.
Venue: Saipan World Resort
Time: 8:00am - 9:00am

Family Panel Discussion: Parents & Consumers "How did I get where I am today?"

This panel discussion will involve first-hand testimonies on the lives, the struggles, the hopes and dreams and the successes of our consumers.

Facilitators: CDD Staff/Kent R. Logan, Ph.D., Autism Specialist for Dekalb County, Atlanta, Georgia
Venue: Saipan World Resort
Time: 9:15am - 11:30am

Lunch Break: 11:30am - 12:45pm

Directions/Guidelines for Concurrent Sessions Ray Diaz, Program Officer, CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities

Session A: Parents With Children With Complex Physical and/or Multiple Disabilities: "Helping My Child Get A Great Start In Learning Language, Communicating, and Playing."

Presenter: Kent R. Logan, Ph.D., Autism Specialist for Dekalb County Schools, Atlanta, Georgia
Venue: Saipan World Resort/BallRoom A
Time: 12:45pm - 2:45pm

Session B: "Integrated Programming for Children with Autism - A Preschool Program that Works."

Presenter: Mark Staal & Jerry Diaz, Special Teachers, Public School System
Venue: Saipan World Resort/BallRoom B
Time: 12:45pm - 2:45pm

Session C: Serving Customers with Disabilities: "Train Hospitality Industry Workers"

Presenter: Thomas J. Camacho, SADPP
Venue: Saipan World Resort/TagaRoom
Time: 12:45pm - 2:45pm

Session D: Everyone Should Be an Advocate - Challenge Masters/R.O.P.E.S.

Presenter: Thomas Thornburgh & Greg Borja, Projects Specialists, Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc.
Venue: Saipan World Resort/Lilac Room
Time: 12:45pm - 2:45pm

Parents with Older Kids Who Are Thinking and Worried About Transition: "Preparing My Child For Everyday Living"

Presenter: Kent R. Logan, Ph.D., Autism Specialist for Dekalb County Schools, Atlanta, Georgia
Venue: Saipan World Resort
Time: 3:00pm - 5:00pm

Note: Please call the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities at 664-7000/1/3 or cell 285-7261 to register. Seating is limited. Go to www.cnmicdd.org for more information.

FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2009

Award Ceremony

Venue: Saipan World Resort/Lilac Room
Time: 9am-11:30am (R.S.V.P.)

Public School System- HeadStart Teachers Training

Presenter: Kent R. Logan, Ph.D., Autism Specialist for Dekalb County Schools, Atlanta, Georgia
Venue: Saipan World Resort/Ball Room
Time: 8:00am - 3:00pm

Public School Systems, Special Education Teachers Training

Presenter: Kent R. Logan, Ph.D., Autism Specialist for Dekalb County Schools, Atlanta, Georgia
Venue: Saipan World Resort/Ball Room
Time: 3:00pm - 5:00pm

SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 2009

Autism Society - Kent R. Logan, Ph.D., Autism Specialist for Dekalb County Schools, Atlanta, Georgia
Venue: TBA
Time: TBA



Event is Sponsored by the following, CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities; FS 360 Project; AT Project, Public School system, UCEDD and in collaboration with support and training by NMPASI



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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Into the fray in Mexico

Mexico often has felt like a stepchild of U.S. foreign policy, its demands for attention to immigration reform, the drug trade and other bilateral issues cast aside for far-flung crises, the most recent being the Bush administration's global war on terror. But now Mexican officials must be thinking they should have been careful what they wished for. Mexico's drug wars have claimed well over 7,000 lives in the last 14 months, many of them in assaults with military-grade weapons. Twice, grenades were tossed at the U.S. Consulate in Monterrey, and the violence has been seeping across the border, with more than 500 drug-related kidnappings in Phoenix alone. Now that drug violence is considered a potential national security threat, the U.S. government is paying attention.

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton will visit Mexico next week, followed by Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr. and Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano in early April, and President Obama shortly after that. The White House says that Obama and President Felipe Calderon will discuss how the two countries can join forces against drug traffickers and "work toward effective, comprehensive immigration reform."

Napolitano is looking at using Border Patrol agents and more customs officers as troops in the drug war. We think it's reasonable to shift some resources from immigration enforcement to the fight against drug violence. At the same time, however, she is considering calls by governors in Texas and Arizona for National Guard deployments, and we believe it would be a mistake to militarize the border. This is a law enforcement issue that requires binational cooperation, and nothing raises the Mexican public's hackles more than talk of the U.S. military on the border. What is needed is U.S. support for investigations, policing and technology to stop weapons trafficking and money laundering for drug lords in Mexico, as well as a policy to address drug consumption in the United States.

No one really expects Obama to take on the divisive issue of immigration reform in the middle of an economic meltdown, but it is welcome news that the administration at least will engage in a conversation with Mexico on the topic. Most experts agree that the key to stemming the flow of illegal immigrants into the United States is to coordinate immigration policy with a program for economic development in Mexico, and obviously that's not something the United States can do alone. So far, the administration is saying the right things about cooperating on drugs and immigration, but Mexico has heard a lot of well-intentioned talk before, only to be disappointed when another distant crisis comes along.

(c) 2009, Los Angeles Times



Passing on the torch

Let's discuss an interesting facet of our life. When we are young, we are full of life and dreams. As we grow older, something happens. We begin to slowly lose the dreams and ambitions we had as a younger person. Then as we approach the fifties we begin to yearn for retirement. Many of us even long for it in great anticipation. It seems we get burned out and are eager to be put out to pasture quietly. Is this what we lived for? Do we have nothing to pass on to the younger generation?

The CNMI is in a state of transition. It is seeking direction as it drifts in a confused world. We, the elderly, must not bury our wisdom and experience with our bodies. For some strange reason we turn our backs on the young and do not try to share the wisdom and knowledge we have gained over the years. We, who have toiled hard and long, carry with us a responsibility that I feel we are neglecting. We must pass on the torch of continuity showing how to improve our lives and community.

Let me reach out to all the retirees, male and female, and ask you to share what you have learned over the years. Sit with the young and reminisce with them of days gone by. Show them some of the skills you learned over the years. Motivate them to strive for a better life. Pass the torch of your knowledge on to them. Encourage them to keep it burning brightly.

Too often I see our elderly gather together and try to entertain themselves in isolation from the youth. Instead they should mingle with them and help kindle the flame in the youth. We, the elderly should explain why we enjoy a certain culture, why we think as we do, where we came from and help guide the youth into the future. There are many things we can do to pass on the torch.

Why not visit a school and get to know the youngsters? Read to them. Talk with them. Stand in wonderment as you see yourself but a few years ago. I promise you will walk away with a lighter step and with perhaps a tear in your eye at the wonderment of life.

Go to the hospital and volunteer your services to help with sick patients, especially children. Visit the Northern Marianas Trades Institute and meet the students. Share your experience about how you were at their age. There are lots more ways you can do to pass on the torch. Reach out in the community and assist it in its struggles to improve itself. A stretched out willing hand is always welcome.

There is a saying that I really don't like but unfortunately seems to be all too true. "Some men die at 25, but are buried at 75." That is such a sad commentary which I hope does not apply to you.

Let's look at some senior citizens who kept creating even at what many of us consider old age. Their spirit to pass on the torch always burned brightly.

■ Verdi, the famous Italian composer, wrote operas after he was 80 years old.

■ Michelangelo was still sculpting masterpieces at 89.

By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is the former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.



- Claude Monet was still painting great masterpieces after 85.
- Golda Meir was the Prime Minister of Israel at age 76.
- The German philosopher Immanuel Kant wrote some of his greatest works when he was past 70.

Here are some of our more recent senior citizens still active and passing on the torch.

- Harry Bernstein, author, published his first book at 96 in 2007.
- Ann Ettaro, my sister, at 87 is still painting and taking art classes.
- Arthur Winston, who at age 100 retired from his job working for the Los Angeles Metro after more than 75 years, missing only one day that being for his wife's funeral in 1988.
- Mae Kabirdem actress who began acting in her 90s.
- Kirk Douglas at 91 years old is giving a one-man show in Las Vegas.

■ Leonard Sine of Saipan, at 92, is very active to the point he still goes to work every day.

One of my dearest friends, Win Straube, has written his autobiography in his 70s. His title is *I Don't Know Where I am Going, But I am Enjoying the Ride*. Isn't that a fantastic title? We should all enjoy the ride, not sit by the sidelines and wait for the tap on the shoulder telling us it is time to go.

None of the above is hiding his or her talent under a bush but is sharing their light with others. All of them are active and are giving. Come and join them and share the wealth of experience and knowledge you have accumulated over the years.

Alfred Lord Tennyson, the great English poet, has written about the excitement of old age and the challenges it presents to us in his famous poem, *Ulysses*. Here are a few lines that have always inspired me when I feel my powers waning.

Picture with me the great Greek hero Ulysses, old and gnarled, as he stands by his ship ready to cast off in search of new adventures. He is now old and tired from his many past ventures and as a ruler of his country. Yet he is not ready to stop his adventures and retire as an old man waiting for death to come and take him. He longs to continue his search and to share his knowledge. Let's listen as he speaks:

"You and I are old. Old age hath yet his honor and his toil;

See **PASSING** on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The House of Horus

The picture of the submarine USS *Hampton* docked at the Port of Saipan and the notation that they are here for their first R&R, properly welcomed at the 360 restaurant, reminded everyone again how crucial the visitors' industry and hospitality commerce are to the island's economy.

We are, of course, clear about why Saipan attracts the boys and girls in uniform: the mild tropical weather that makes the ocean water "bathtub" warm all year round, the rich historic sites and treasures of Spanish explorations and expeditions, residues of German administration and the hallmarks of Japanese economic development, the almost pristine condition of the dive sites and some of the sandy and coral beaches, the melodic cultural traditions of the Carolinians and Chamorros recently expanded to encompass the ways of the Pacific both of the *taotao tano* and the *taotao tasi*, and the new diversity that has come to be the rainbow mask of the current population, especially in the servicing sector.

With a frozen mangorita on one hand, if our uniformed personnel had not already been invited by a group that would make one captive to their witness of the wonders of their faith over a meal, our guests would be seen at a café, or bar and grill, gazing into the sunset hoping for the green flash that would earn them a free drink on the house, writing their postcards for home and the wonder-filled rest and recreation time they spent in the wonder-full company of the people of the Marianas.

Our gentle entrepreneurs of local commerce, trade and industry, of course, know a bit more than the standard and preferred public recounting of the time spent by overgrown boys and girls' scouts basking in the healthy and hearty ambience of our R&R designated island. Rites and rituals before the altars of Venus in Caesar's Palaces may provide more R&R memories than what our DoD personnel are willing to commit into narratives for home.

Given my age, I am more familiar and sympathetic to the picture

of street denizen Ilya of the Greek port of Piraeus played by the sultry Melina Mercouri when she romped her 1960 Never-On-Sunday ethics as the hooker with a heart of gold (reprised later by the characters of Shirley MacLaine's 1963 *Irma La Douce*, and Julia Roberts' 1990 *Pretty Woman*).

Though the character of Mary of Magdala plays prominently in Christian iconography, it might have been the anti-paganism of English Christian missionaries who gave the pejorative meaning to the Ilyas of the world by giving an onomatopoeic name to the daughters of the House of Horus/Hors of Egypt.

The etymology of the words "whole" and "holy" derives from the cognate for "health." Wholeness and holiness are cousins. "Whores" from the Houses of Horus/Hors were dedicated temple prostitutes, prominent in the Mediterranean, by Nile and in Mesopotamia, in whose sacred care in ancient civilization were given the roles of fecundity to promote nature's fertility to fructify the earth!

An acerbic female friend contends these mistresses of the temple have since moved to the security of middle class dwellings in the suburbs, under the sanctity of marriage, and are no longer called by the same name, but their sisters who are often referred to as also streetwalkers (Garapan) or working women (clubs and bars), have taken a more practical commercial supply-and-demand approach to the function. Historically, this latter followed the forces of the Persian and Roman Empires, and became a permanent fixture to later occupying military forces in many lands. In our region, we had Susie Wong's Wan Chai in HK, Walker Hill and its environs in Seoul, the Geishas of Shinjuku in Tokyo, Ermita in Manila, the coffee houses of Taipei, little Saigon in Ho Chi Minh city, Joo Chiat Rd. in Singapore, Tumon in Guam, and Garapan on Saipan.

GWB in 2003 signed a zero tolerance memo on the implication of human trafficking on national security and a decree came in early 2004 from Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz stating that

By **JAIME VERGARA**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section.



trafficking in persons "will not be facilitated in any way by the activities of our service members, civilian employees, indirect hires or DoD contract personnel." What had been up to that point politely ignored and tolerated had become in the evangelical White House illicit and subject to criminal prosecution. Though human trafficking had a broader definition, it got narrowed down to what consenting adults did for monetary price.

The containment of adult entertainment, including gambling through neighborhood poker machines next to the laundromats and mom-and-pop stores, has been a concern among members of the Saipan Zoning Board, and much political mileage has been uttered in the rhetoric of making the Paseo de Marianas more family friendly and mainstream attractive. This is a bit more prohibitive than the wild imaginings of those who previously promoted Cowtown in Marpi, but the facticity of the availability of the commodity that titillates the flesh should be dealt with freshly *sans* reproach nor foreboding.

We begin with this introduction a series of articles this week on the universal phenomenon of paid sex, which Ruth Tighe suggested be decriminalized, as practiced on Saipan.

A civil acquaintance in the CNMI immigration office always asks

See **THE HOUSE** on Page 13

The United States' geopolitical & strategic interest in the NMI

A personal view of historical perspective during the Cold War

First of a two-part series

Many people in the United States and elsewhere could pin the tail on a donkey blindfolded with greater ease than locate the Northern Marianas on a map, which doesn't bode well for their knowledge of geography.

It is because of geography that the Mariana Islands have always figured prominently and importantly in the affairs of western hemispheric nations in a measure far beyond their size and resources would appear to warrant.

As for the Northern Marianas, in spite of their proximity to Asia, in all their 487 years of recorded history since their location was charted by Western explorers, the only time they have been under the control of an Asian nation (Japan) was the 30-year period between the world wars, (1914 to 1944). For 457 years, or until 1978 when the NMI became self-governing, they were controlled by Western nations, first Spain, then Germany and later by the United States under an agreement with the United Nations. Indeed, the United States still exercises control over defense and the many federal laws that apply within the Commonwealth.

I dare say—at least in my judgment—the U.S. government has valued the island's geographic location and used the NMI to further the achievement of its national political and military objectives in the western Pacific. While several activities listed below may be considered controversial by some, most have contributed to the positive growth and stability of the NMI much more than is readily apparent to the casual observer.

These have included, but are not limited to:

- the WWII Saipan invasion of 1944 in the war with Japan;
- the Cold War use of Saipan by the CIA - NTTU, (late '50s—early '60s);
- the current reserved use of military retention areas particularly on Saipan and Tinian ('80s to present);
- the current use of the Saipan harbor for prepositioned ships;

■ the "over the horizon radar", (early '90s, since removed from its Marpi location);

■ the current use of a northern island for naval bombing practice;

■ depending on the claims asserted by the United States, the Commonwealth's jurisdiction of the territorial sea and the 200 mile exclusive economic zone are subordinate to the U.S. which could conceivably limit the opportunities for exploiting marine resources to the advantage of the NMI.

■ an early development constraint imposed by U.S. policy on the islands while under the United Nations agreement in the form of the detrimental and stringent use of the "favored nation clause." This policy effectively prohibited foreign investment and restricted economic growth for a period of time ('60s and early '70s). (*It was through the dedication and vision of David M. Sablan who worked to have this restriction on development eventually removed in 1973*).

With the NMI as a U.S. affiliated political entity and situated on the doorstep of Asia in the Eastern Hemisphere, the islands' geographic location has been recognized to be of military strategic value in the western Pacific and as such is a geographic asset supporting the security of the United States and the military bases in Guam.

From the historical perspective of this observer the above are some actions that have affected the islands in one form or another. Other positive contributions include:

- search and rescue and surveillance missions;
 - the valuable port visits of U.S. naval vessels for R&R.
- Of further strategic importance is the location of the Northern Marianas situated astride the sea routes serving the Honolulu - Manila and Panama - Singapore sea lanes.

Sea routes are valuable national assets and the ability to control or influence these traffic lanes is a matter of importance to a blue water navy. The ocean, and today the air, are avenues of commerce—lifelines to carry the nation's industrial blood, whether it be raw materials or its processed products to world markets.

Geopolitics in the western Pacific will continue to be influenced

By **WILLIAM H. STEWART**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

William H. Stewart is an economist and military historical cartographer



by the United States with China becoming an increasingly major player along with Japan, the latter a country that must import all its raw material and export its finished manufactured goods to markets throughout the world. The highways for this commerce are the sea lanes of all the world's oceans. For this purpose China and Japan need secure ocean trade routes—security that the U. S. Navy has provided since the end of the World War II.

After the United States closed its bases in the Philippines, the Mariana Islands of Guam, Tinian and Saipan experienced increased importance to American strategic requirements. However, it is because of their geographic location in proximity to the Asian continent as well as the Great Circle Sailing Routes (shortest distance) between the United States and the Philippines, the Straits of Malacca at Singapore and the Lombok Straits in Indonesia that the United States will continue to exhibit interest in the area far into the 21st century. The Malacca and Lombok Straits are the passages through which supertankers and their vital cargo of oil from the Middle East and the Persian Gulf must travel en route to the United States west coast and the Pacific ports of its Japanese ally and trading partner.

In former times the Marianas served as coaling stations, relay stations for transoceanic cables, locations for radio transmitters, etc. Today they are sites for radar, earth satellite communication systems and fueling stops for the jet "clippers" of the skies, which more

See **THE UNITED** on Page 13

PASSING

From Page 10

Death closes all; but something ere the end, some work of noble note, may yet be done, not unbecoming men that strove with gods.

Though we are not now that strength which in old days moved earth and heaven, that which we are, we are—

One equal temper of heroic hearts, made weak by time and fate, but strong in will.

To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield!"

As Ulysses felt about his old age, I too feel about mine. And believe me, some days I feel like I am a 100 years old. But I cast off in search of new and exciting ventures whenever the opportunity arises. I seek to share what I have learned as I pass through life. Listen again as Ulysses speaks:

"I am a part of all that I have met;

Yet all experience is an arch where through gleams that untraveled world...How dull it is to pause, to make an end, to rust unburnished, not to shine in use."

As Ulysses and all the others mentioned above and the thousands






not mentioned have done and are doing, let us join with them and pass on the torch. We who have lived fruitful lives cannot rest. Join with Ulysses as he casts off in search of new adventures. The youth await our guidance. We have traveled the road they are currently on. Take their hand and help them avoid the pitfalls we may have fallen into.

Remember we pass this way only once. Make sure you leave an impression. Leave your footprints in the sand for others to walk in. We have much to give, much to share. Our community needs us. Let us pass on the torch so the future becomes brighter for those that follow. Before we are called to our Maker let us once more: "To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield!" Pass on the torch proudly!

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
				
Mostly sunny with isolated showers. Light east winds.	Mostly sunny with isolated showers. Light southeast winds.	Sunny with a slight chance of showers in the afternoon.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼76°	▲85° ▼76°	▲85° ▼76°	▲85° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°

Micronesia		
Guam and Rota	Cloudy	▲84 ▼75
Palau	Showers	▲88 ▼77
Yap	Showers	▲86 ▼76
Chuuk	Showers	▲87 ▼78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲84 ▼78
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	▲88 ▼76
Majuro	Partly Sunny	▲85 ▼76

Around The Globe		
Auckland	Sunny	▲67 ▼55
Beijing	Sunny	▲57 ▼32
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲82 ▼73
Honolulu	Mostly Cloudy	▲77 ▼68
London	Cloudy	▲55 ▼39
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲66 ▼50
Manila	Partly Sunny	▲90 ▼77
Melbourne	Sunny	▲69 ▼51
Miami	Cloudy	▲79 ▼66
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲54 ▼37
Osaka	Cloudy	▲55 ▼47
Paris	Sunny	▲57 ▼37
Pusan	Mostly Cloudy	▲57 ▼44
Rome	Sunny	▲61 ▼43
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲51 ▼37
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲63 ▼47
Seoul	Cloudy	▲49 ▼28
Tokyo	Cloudy	▲54 ▼42
Washington, DC	Partly Sunny	▲57 ▼40

Tides		
Saipan Harbor		
6:22 AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
12:07 PM Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
5:17 PM Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet



PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front enters the discussion area at 25N160E and extends southwestward to 19N156E. Cloudiness and scattered showers are found along and up to 350 miles east of the cold front and north of 19N. A surface trough west of Chuuk stretches from the equator at 155E to 6N151E to end at 10N151E. Scattered light showers are found between 4N and 8N from 147E to 155E. This area includes Chuuk. Scattered trade-wind showers are found well southeast of Majuro within 100 miles of a line from 2N175E to 7N173E.

Sunrise/Sunset			Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	6:19 AM	6:28 PM	Today	3:46 AM	3:34 PM
Tuesday	6:19 AM	6:28 PM	Tuesday	4:24 AM	4:24 PM
Wednesday	6:18 AM	6:29 PM	Wednesday	5:01 AM	5:14 PM
Thursday	6:17 AM	6:29 PM	Thursday	5:38 AM	6:05 PM
Friday	6:16 AM	6:29 PM	Friday	6:16 AM	6:58 PM

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 - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 12, 2009

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
Saipan-Rota CO9597 11:50am 12:25pm 1,7	Rota-Saipan CO 9598 3:25am 4:00am 5,6
Saipan-Guam CO9317 5:00am 5:50am Daily CO9313 8:30am 9:20am Daily CO9597 11:50am 1:20pm 1,7 via Rota CO9601 12:30pm 1:20pm 2,3,4,5,6 CO9603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily CO9605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily CO9599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily	Guam-Saipan CO 9316 2:30am 3:20am 1,2,3,4,7 CO9598 2:30am 4:00am 5,6 via Rota CO9596 7:00am 7:50am Daily CO9600 10:20am 11:10am Daily CO9602 2:00pm 2:50pm Daily CO9604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily CO9606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily
Saipan-Narita NW 099 5:00am 7:35am Daily NW 078 8:20am 1:30pm 2,3,4,5,6,7 NW 075 4:55pm 7:30pm Daily	Narita-Saipan NW 076 10:15am 2:40pm Daily NW 077 6:25pm 1:20am+1 2,3,4,5,6,7 NW 100 8:45pm 1:10am+1 Daily
Guam-Narita NW 73 4:10pm 7:00pm Daily NW 81 3:55pm 6:55pm Daily	Narita-Guam NW 74 9:45am 2:20pm Daily NW 82 10:30am 3:10pm Daily
Saipan-Osaka OZ 119 4:00am 6:40am 1,4,6	Osaka-Saipan OZ 120 9:50pm 2:20am+1 3,5,7
Guam-Osaka NW 79 4:45pm 7:35pm Daily	Osaka-Guam NW 80 10:30am 3:00pm Daily
Saipan-Nagoya NW 078 8:20am 11:05am Daily	Nagoya-Saipan NW 077 9:00pm 1:20am+1 Daily
Guam-Nagoya NW 23 4:30pm 7:20pm Daily	Nagoya-Guam NW 24 10:00am 2:30pm Daily
Saipan-Incheon OZ 604 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ 604 2:40am 6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7 OZ 119 4:00am 11:25am 1,4,6 via Osaka OZ 606 3:20pm 7:00pm Daily	Incheon-Saipan OZ 605 9:00am 2:20pm Daily OZ 603 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ 120 7:10pm 2:20am+1 3,5,7 via Osaka OZ 603 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1,2,3,4,5,6
Saipan-Busan OZ 608 3:20am 6:50am 1,4,5,7	Busan-Saipan OZ 607 9:00pm 2:10am+1 3,4,6,7
Saipan-Shanghai FM 844 2:50am 5:40am 2,6	Shanghai-Saipan FM 843 7:15pm 1:50am+1 1,5
Rota-Guam CO 9597 12:50pm 1:20pm 1,7	Guam-Rota CO 9598 2:30am 3:00am 5,6
Guam-Palau CO 953 7:40pm 8:40pm 1,7 CO 893 5:50pm 6:50pm 3,5	Palau-Guam CO 954 2:30am 5:25am 1,2 CO 892 2:35am 5:30am 4,6
Palau-Manila CO 893 7:35pm 9:10pm 3,5	Manila-Palau CO 892 10:10pm 1:50am+1 3,5
Guam-Manila CO 893 5:50pm 9:10pm 3,5 via Koror CO 933 8:00pm 9:40pm Daily PR 111 6:00am 7:50am 1,2,4,6,7	Manila-Guam CO 892 10:10pm 5:30am+1 3,5 via Koror CO 934 11:10pm 4:40am+1 Daily PR 110 10:10pm 4:00am+1 1,3,5,6,7
Nagoya-Manila NW 71 8:40pm 11:55pm Daily	Manila-Nagoya NW 72 6:30am 11:05am Daily
Incheon-Hongkong OZ 721 9:20am 12:00pm Daily OZ 723 7:45pm 10:35pm Daily OZ 7173 8:00pm 10:50pm 5,7	Hongkong-Incheon OZ 724 12:30am 4:50am Daily OZ 7183 12:45am 4:05am 1,4,6 OZ 722 1:30pm 5:45pm Daily
Narita-Manila NW 1 7:00pm 10:55pm Daily	Manila-Narita NW 2 7:45am 12:40pm Daily

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 100 7:00am 7:30am Daily				FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 100 7:50am 8:20am Daily				FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 200 9:00am 9:30am Daily				FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
FRE 200 9:50am 10:15am Daily				Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
Guam-Rota				FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 300 4:00pm 4:30pm Daily				FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 300 4:50pm 5:25pm Daily				FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 400 6:00pm 6:30pm Daily				FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 400 6:45pm 7:15pm Daily				FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 101 6:45am 6:55am Daily				FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 103 7:30am 7:40am Daily				FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 105 8:00am 8:10am Daily				FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 107 8:40am 8:50am Daily				FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily
FRE 109* 9:10am 9:20am Daily							
FRE 111* 10:45am 10:55am Daily							



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

THE UNITED

From Page 11

often than not land on air strips that were first constructed to service the American military.

Extreme geographic, cultural, historical, economic and political contrasts face each other across the vast Pacific Ocean. The oldest civilization on Earth faces the youngest. The most overpopulated continent lies opposite the most sparsely populated.

The Pacific is the ocean where East meets West—ancient civilizations with cultural and ancestral stability and with reverence for the past are juxtaposed with the restlessness of the West and its obsession with the future. So it was in the past and so it remains today. As the strategy of the Pacific is examined it becomes abundantly clear why the Marianas are so important to the United States. As the crow flies Saipan is roughly as distant from Washington, D.C. (6,775 nautical miles) as it is from Moscow (6,545 n. mi.).

Curiously, for a long period of time the islands of the Trust Territory of which the NMI was a part were not administered by the U. S. Department of State which carries out America's foreign policy, since to do so would have been tantamount to admitting they were "foreign." Instead, the Northern Marianas were, for a period, administered first by the United States Navy and later by the Department of the Interior.

The islands are geographically situated so as to be the farthest United States possessions in the Pacific west of Hawaii. Situated in a universe of water, the Marianas archipelago are the farthest stars out in America's Pacific galaxy. With the possible exception of parts of the Philippine islands, the four southern islands in the Marianas archipelago are the only Western oriented societies in the Eastern Hemisphere.

During the height of the Cold War period it was the presence of the U.S. Navy in the Marianas that provided the assurance of stability that permitted the region to develop to the extent that has occurred.

Currently the United States military has leased a portion of Tinian (originally 17,799 acres of which 12,000 acres have been leased back to the CNMI). Several U.S. military supply vessels are already on station in Commonwealth waters.

To be continued.

Editor's note: Prior to service with the U.S. Department of State the author studied the economics of national security from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces (now the National Defense University). He is a recipient of the Department of Defense "Cold War Certificate" for services rendered to the U.S. government. During his tenure in the Pacific area he has served as senior economist for the former Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands and later for the Northern Marianas, Palau and Truk.

Letter to the Editor

Thank you

Jeff Race donated tennis rackets and tennis balls to Tinian High teacher and coach Ed Temengil. Many of these beginners' rackets ended up in the hands of Tinian Elementary School students. The students would likely to publicly thank Mr. Jeff Race for his generous donation. Following are some of the students' regards:

Dear Mr. Race, I sincerely would like to say thank you for the tennis equipment. We really needed them. I'm kind of tired of playing kickball all the time. We really appreciate it. Even though I don't know much about sports, I know we'll have fun playing. I think or know we'll have a great time. Thank you again!

Sincerely,
Mikeala

Dear Mr. Race, Thanks for the tennis equipment. And also my teacher said thank you too. We might have a field trip to the tennis court, and thank you for the tennis equipment. And I will make all of my classmates sign this thank you note. Also, I have to stop using And, And, And because sometimes, plenty Ands. But don't forget I said thank you.

Sincerely,
Joseph

Dear Mr. Race, My class is very glad that you sent us the tennis equipment, and we'd like to thank you for that. We were so happy that you sent it to us, but we have to be good in order for us to play with it. However, someday we will get to play tennis, and we will always



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tinian Elementary School students show off the tennis rackets and tennis balls that Jeff Race donated to Tinian High teacher and coach Ed Temengil.

be glad playing with it because you sent nice equipment for us just to play with.

Sincerely,
Ima
Daughter of a soldier

Dear Mr. Race, I just wanted to say thank you for giving us the rackets and balls. I know you

could have gave it to anyone, but you chose us. By the way, my father is Chamorro and my mom is Chuukese. I appreciate the fact that you donated tennis equipment. It shows that you really care about kids. Thank you for sending the rackets and the balls.

Sincerely,
Luis

THE HOUSE

From Page 11


me to join him for lunch, "so that I could pick your brain," he claims. He thinks that I write about many things that he is interested in and would not mind picking up the bill if I shared insights on matters of labor and immigration.

Since the tandem legal minds of the Skinners introduced me to the plight of garment factory workers in Saipan in the late '90s, and my work as the local clergy for the Unit-

ed Methodist Church at the century's end and turn, and having briefly ran a "sanctuary" for needy transients with the Marianas Resource Center in Oleai, for which I still get occasional greetings from those who have passed through our service doors from the Ilocos in the Philippines' Northern Luzon to Lin Zi Shen Ru Gao Si in Jiangsu, China, I have become very familiar with certain aspects of our island's existence after sundown and of those who have chosen their profession, for the meantime, under the cover of the shadows.

The famous Catholic sociologist priest and writer Andrew Greeley was once asked how a celibate cleric could know so much and write so vividly about sex in his novels, and he allegedly replied: "I do applied research."

This series of articles is grounded in experience for which this writer could genuinely say, "I know what I write about." Nothing speculative here, but how exactly and how deeply one was engaged at the ground level, is not our primary subject to write about. For off the record info, invite me to lunch. You may pick my brain.



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

PROJECT NO. CPA-SS-001-09

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is requesting proposals for various renovations and replacement work at the Seaport CPA Building and Dock area. The scope of work can be picked up at the Office of the Executive Director by April 3rd, 2009.

All proposals are to be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **Project No. CPA-SS-001-09: Renovations and Replacement work at the Seaport CPA Building and Dock Area.** All Package A or Package B proposals are to be submitted by May 1st, 2009, 4:00 p.m.

There will be no public opening of the proposals. A pre-proposal conference, if requested, will be scheduled.

Questions can be submitted in writing by email or letter to the Executive Director until April 17, 2009.

BEFORE THE COMMONWEALTH PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION'S [CUC] LEAC RATE **DOCKET 09-1**

REVIEW OF CUC'S WATER AND WASTEWATER RATES **DOCKET 09-2**

PROPOSED CONFIDENTIALITY RULES **DOCKET 09-3**

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On December 19, 2008, the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission [CPUC] established by regulatory order in Docket 09-1 a levelized energy adjustment clause [LEAC] by which it would set and adjust a semi-annual rate to enable CUC to recover its fuel and related expenses. By that order, CPUC established a LEAC rate of \$5.22989 cents per kWh for the period January 1, 2009 through March 31, 2009 and further directed that its regulatory consultant [Georgetown] recommend a LEAC rate, which would be set for the period April 1, 2009 through September 30, 2009. On March 6, 2009, Georgetown submitted a report, which is available for public inspection on the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's website www.saipan-chamber.com. Georgetown recommends that for the six month period commencing April 1, 2009, the current LEAC rate of \$5.22989 cents per kWh be reduced to \$4.9327 cents per kWh [a 16% reduction]. CUC has been directed on or before March 20, 2009 to respond to the Georgetown report.


By order dated December 19, 2008, CPUC established Docket 09-2 to review CUC's water and wastewater rates and related issues. Pursuant to this order, Georgetown has conducted a review and on March 6, 2009 submitted testimony to CPUC, which recommends that CUC's current water rate of \$25.80 per 10k gallons be increased to a rate in a range between \$43.23 to \$51.92 per 10k gallons and that its current wastewater rate of \$5.50 per 10k gallons be increased to a rate in a range between \$13.44 per 10k gallons to \$17.40 per 10k gallons. Georgetown submits that these increases are mandated by public law and by the impending Federal Stipulated Order in Federal District Court Civil Case 08-51 [USA v. CUC and CNMI]. This report is also available for public inspection on the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's website. CUC has been directed on or before March 20, 2009 to respond to the Georgetown report.

On December 19, 2008, CPUC established Docket 09-3 for the purpose of examining telecommunications regulatory issues. Within this proceeding, CPUC staff has proposed that CPUC adopt confidentiality rules to assure that proprietary information, which is submitted by regulated entities in regulatory proceedings will receive appropriate protection. These proposed rules are available for public inspection on the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's website. CPUC invites public comment on these proposed rules on or before March 27, 2009 either in writing delivered to the office of CPUC's general counsel, Anthony Long, Esq. in San Jose at Box 504970 Saipan MP, by electronic filing to gal@nmlaw.com or at the public hearing scheduled below.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that CPUC will conduct a public hearing, which will commence at 1:00 p.m. on March 27, 2009 at the CNMI Senate Chamber to receive Georgetown's report and testimony in Dockets 09-1 and 09-2 and CUC's position regarding these filings and other regulatory matters. At this hearing, CPUC will welcome the public's attendance and comments at the conclusion of the hearing. Persons who desire to formally participate in the hearing pursuant to 4 CMC § 8409(j) should on or before March 20, 2009 file with CPUC at the office of CPUC's general counsel, Anthony Long, Esq. in San Jose an application and offer of proof in accordance with § 8409(j) and CPUC Procedural Rule 11(c).

CPUC has directed that after the public hearing, its hearing examiner issue a report with recommendations including a proposed order in both dockets, which will be filed with CPUC on March 31, 2009 and will also be available for public inspection on the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's website. CPUC will deliberate on this report at a business meeting, which will be duly noticed and will be conducted at 5:00 p.m. on April 2, 2009 at the offices of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

Further information about the public hearing and the public's right to participate may be obtained from CPUC's general counsel, Anthony Long, Esq. at 235-4802.



COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

P.O. Box 502149, Saipan MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 • Fax: (670) 234-7144 or 235-7147
Email: administration@cda.gov.mp • Website: www.cda.gov.mp

PUBLIC NOTICE

March 23, 2009

PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 8-41, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY THRU ITS CHAIRMAN, HEREBY INFORMS THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE CDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL HOLD ITS REGULAR MEETING ON THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2009 AT 10:00 A.M. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE CDA CONFERENCE ROOM, SECOND FLOOR, WAKIN'S BUILDING, CHALAN PALE ARNOLD ROAD, SAIPAN. THE AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING IS AS FOLLOWS:

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

1. Roll Call

2. Adoption of Agenda

3. Adoption of Minutes – March 5, 2009

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

III. REPORTS

1. Financial Report-CDA

2. Legal Counsel's Report

IV. DIVISIONS/COMMITTEES

1. Development Corporation Division (DCD)

a. Loan and Borrower's Requests

b. Foreclosed Properties – Proposal/Updates

c. Loan Receivables' Report

2. DBD/Public Finance Committee

a. CPA-CDA Loan

3. Administrative Matters/Personnel & Budget

4. QC Program/Economic Development Activities

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. SBDC/Business Incubator

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. CDA Board Resolution 2009-001

VII. OTHER MATTERS

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. (Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session)

/s/ **PEDRO I. ITIBUS**
Chairman, CDA Board of Directors

REGIONAL COOPERATION IN THE PACIFIC

Coast Guard hosts maritime security talks

HAWAII—Military leaders from the four stakeholder countries in Oceania gathered here last week for important discussions concerning security policy in the Pacific and strategies for expanding maritime surveillance in the region.

Rear Adm. Manson Brown, commander of the Fourteenth Coast Guard District, held the first Coast Guard-led Quadri-lateral Talks "Quad Talks" meeting with Australian, New Zealand and French delegates at Ford Island in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, March 17-18, 2009. The two-day meeting advanced ideas and programs to improve maritime domain awareness.

"We gather together a couple times each year in order to exchange views on regional issues and policy perspectives," said Cmdr. Mark Young, chief of law enforcement for the Fourteenth Coast Guard District, headquartered in Honolulu.

"It's also an opportunity to identify the best ways to collectively coordinate and de-conflict our respective activities in order to advance our own national interests and those of the

countries in the Pacific region," said Young.

The U.S. Coast Guard was designated in 2008 as the executive agent for the Quad Talks by the U.S. Pacific Command (PACOM) because many of the security issues in the Pacific are directly linked to Coast Guard missions.

The main goal of the Quad Talks is to strengthen maritime security in the Pacific Ocean, specifically around the island

countries in the South Pacific through improved maritime domain awareness and law enforcement capability.

Illegal fisheries and other illegal activities are a major concern throughout the island countries of the Pacific Ocean, so the four major nations with a vested interest in the region (the U.S., Australia, New Zealand and France) optimize their exchange of information when together and develop ways to minimize

illegal activities. This exchange leads to innovative ideas for law enforcement operations and policy procedures, including, for example, officer exchanges between the countries and 'ship rider' agreements, said Young.

"Communication in these discussions are vitally important to ensure we gain a real understanding in what each other are doing and to gain a better strategy for future law enforcement operations," said Cmdr. Paul

Scott, director of plans at Fleet Headquarters in Australia.

The Quad Talks encourages the four nations to work with each other in building a maritime security network, said participants. The talks help with information sharing and eliminate redundancies.

"I think any opportunity we have to gather together to understand what each countries' priorities are always an important opportunity we shouldn't pass it up," said Group Capt. Ian Watts, director of Domestic and Regional Operations at Headquarters Joint Operations Command in Australia.

"You think you know what's re-

quired from the other parties and you think you understand what their issues are, but when you get together you find out face-to-face what it really is, there is no substitute spending the time in each others company and talking through the issues," said Watts.

Since certain areas in the Pacific Ocean are more prone to illegal activities, developing these bonds with the three other nations, and their respective territories, helps curtail illegal activity. U.S. Coast Guard assets based in Honolulu and Apra Harbor, Guam, have helped with air sur-

veillance and prove an extra asset for law enforcement.

The Coast Guard also routinely calls on assets from Australia, New Zealand and French Polynesia on search and rescue and law enforcement cases.

"With the illegal activity in the Pacific, every nation struggles to keep up with the high demand for operational law enforcement assets," said Group Captain John Cummings, chief of staff officer at Joint Forces Headquarters in New Zealand.

"The idea of helping each other to do joint operations and allow other agencies to assist on boarding vessels within their respective waters is a great way to increase law enforcement capability," Cummings said.

The Fourteenth Coast Guard District depends on these relationships to stretch its maritime domain capability in the far-flung Pacific. The district is the service's largest geographically at more than 12.2 million square miles.

"Success has bred success, and when the smaller territories see the positive outcomes after an operation it helps widen the range of law enforcement," said Brown, who has traveled extensively through the region fostering these crucial relationships.

"I was honored to help host these discussions, and the fruit we will bear will be shared by all the island nations of the Pacific," said Brown.

The Quadri-lateral Talks were held last year in New Caledonia and are scheduled for Australia in 2010. *(Petty Officer 3rd Class Angela Henderson, U.S. Coast Guard)*



U.S. COAST GUARD PHOTO/PA3 ANGELA HENDERSON

Rear Adm. Manson Brown, commander of the Fourteenth Coast Guard District, poses with delegates from Australia, New Zealand and France during the third Coast Guard-led Quad Talks at Ford Island in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, Wednesday, March 18, 2009. The goal of the Quad Talks is to strengthen maritime security in the Pacific Ocean through improved maritime domain awareness and law enforcement.



TÊTE-À-TÊTE

CNMI Rep. Gregorio "Kilili" C. Sablan and Palau President Johnson Toribiong share a light moment during the President's visit to Capitol Hill this week. Toribiong was in Washington to seek support for an extension of time for the economic terms of Palau's Compact of Free Association. Federal programs and services Palau now receives are set to expire Sept. 30, the 15th anniversary of the Compact. Kilili assured the President of his support. Also present at the meeting were Palau's Minister of State Sandra Pierantozzi, Sen. Regina Mesebeluu, Ambassador to the United States Hersey Kyota, Dr. Victor Yanno, and Haruo Wilter. *CONTRIBUTED PHOTO*

SPC develops joint country strategy with Palau gov't

A team from the Secretariat of the Pacific Community visited Palau from March 9 to 13, 2009, to begin consultations with government and civil society representatives on the Palau-SPC joint country strategy. The strategy will guide the provision of SPC services to Palau for the next five years.

SPC, in consultation with government and civil society representatives, is preparing a JCS for each of its 22 Pacific Island member countries and territories. The JCS outlines in one integrated document the scope of planned SPC assistance to an individual country over a defined period. It presents a "whole of SPC" approach designed to improve the relevance and effectiveness of interventions at the country level, and to strengthen priority setting and monitoring.

The SPC team was led by Amena Yauvoli, Manager, SPC

North Pacific Regional Office and included 10 other SPC staff, as well as participants from the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Program.

The consultations agreed on several approaches that will characterize SPC services in Palau over the next five years: capacity development and supplementation, including training for Palau counterpart staff; support for Palau's priorities in a number of key information and communications technology sectors through innovative ICT initiatives, such as the Rural Internet Connectivity System and One Laptop Per Child programs; provision of funding to the Government of Palau and civil society organizations to support important initiatives; an increase in direct assistance to activities within Palau; and increased collaboration with other development partners. *(SPC)*

HSC-25 to conduct exercise at Apra Harbor

SANTA RITA, Guam—Sailors from Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 will conduct search and rescue jumps ON March 25, 5pm-8pm in Apra Harbor. The exercise will take place about 200 yards off of

Gab Gab and San Luis Beach on U.S. Naval Base Guam. Guam Fire and Rescue Units will support the exercise.

Safety observers will be in place for the duration of the exercise, which will provide training

for pilots and rescue swimmers. HSC-25 provides 24-hour search and rescue and medical evacuation services for Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands.

HSC-25 also is the Navy's only forward deployed verti-

cal replenishment squadron and provides deployed ships a rapid, safe and versatile means of re-supplying diminishing stores. The Navy command is based out of Andersen Air Force Base. *(PR)*

Business

IT&E launches BlackBerry solution in the CNMI

IT&E, the wireless telecommunications leader in the Marianas, announces today the launch of the BlackBerry wireless solution in the CNMI with the availability of the BlackBerry 8830 World Edition and BlackBerry Curve 8330 smartphones from Research In Motion.

The BlackBerry solution on IT&E's EVDO high-speed mobile broadband network provides customers with fast and easy wireless access to e-mail, phone, calendar, web and multimedia applications, as well as thousands of other mobile business and lifestyle applications. IT&E customers can now enjoy



the freedom of using BlackBerry smartphones to stay connected while living their "Life in Motion."

"We are thrilled to be introducing the BlackBerry solution to customers in the CNMI," said

Larry Knecht, Executive vice president of IT&E. "Coupled with IT&E's EVDO high speed data network, BlackBerry smartphones will keep our customers connected while on the go. IT&E is the first and only high speed wireless data solution in the CNMI offering increased productivity and flexibility that our customers have asked us to provide."

The BlackBerry 8830 World

Edition smartphone from IT&E features:

- Voice and SMS roaming in over 210 countries using IT&E's Global Roaming solution

- Advanced media player, great for listening to music, watching videos and viewing pictures, plus a stereo headset jack

- An intuitive user interface and trackball that makes navigation instinctive and fast

- Robust call management features such as smart dialing, speed dialing and call forwarding

- Enhanced HTML browser for visiting web sites while on the go

- BlackBerry® Internet Ser-

vice support, allowing access to up to 10 supported personal and corporate email accounts, including most popular ISP email accounts

- BlackBerry® Enterprise Server support providing tight integration with IBM Lotus® Domino®, Microsoft® Exchange and Novell GroupWise® and featuring strong security and IT policy controls for managing smartphone features and usage

- Support for polyphonic, MP3 and MIDI ring tones

- Other voice features including noise cancellation for enhanced audio performance, speaker independent voice recognition for voice activated dialing, dedicated 'send', 'end', and 'mute' keys, low-distortion speakerphone, and Bluetooth® support

In addition, IT&E is offering the BlackBerry Curve 8330 smartphone, which features a highly tactile full QWERTY keyboard, a 2 MP camera that supports video recording*, a 3.5 mm stereo headset jack, and high-speed USB support for transferring large files quickly and conveniently between a computer and the smartphone. A microSD/SDHC memory



card slot and advanced media player enable customers to carry and enjoy their music, videos and photos wherever they are.

Through March 30, customers may choose either BlackBerry smartphone for the introductory price of \$249 and get three months of BlackBerry data service for only \$19.95 per month—50 percent off regular price (a savings of \$60). BlackBerry smartphones are available at the main Chalan Lau Lau Middle Road store or at the IT&E Wireless Express Center in Garapan as well as the IT&E offices on Tinian

and Rota. Call 682-4ITE for more information.

With over 75,000 total subscribers on Saipan, Tinian, Rota and Guam, the PTI Group of Companies of which IT&E is a part is the largest telecommunications company in the Marianas. It was purchased from Verizon by Prospector Holdings Inc. of the Philippine-based Delgado family in September of 2005. In 2006, Sumitomo Corporation became a long term strategic partner.

** Video recording requires microSD card, which may be sold separately.*

US Post Service looks for new ways to cut losses

WASHINGTON (AP)—The U.S. Postal Service has already suggested dropping a day of mail delivery to save money. Now, with economic gloom everywhere, it's turning to early retirements, management cutbacks and office closings.

Not so long ago, the picture was far different. The USPS finished fiscal 2005 with a \$1.4 billion surplus.

Postal officials were already struggling with a sharp decline in first-class mail as letters and many bills moved to the Internet. Then the flagging economy devastated advertising mail, which had become the agency's largest volume. At the same time, the number of delivery points - homes and offices where it must bring mail, was continuing to increase.

The Postal Service lost \$2.8 billion last year and is facing even larger losses this year, despite a rate increase - to 44 cents for first-class mail - scheduled to take effect May 11.

The service said Friday it will offer early retirement to 150,000 workers across the country. In addition the agency said it will eliminate 1,400 management jobs and close six of its 80 district offices.

Postmaster General John Potter has even asked Congress to consider allowing the agency to cut mail delivery back to five days a week to save money.

In its announcement Friday, the post office said it will cut management staff nationwide by 15 percent, eliminating more than 1,400 processing, supervisor and management posts at 400 facilities. And another

150,000 postal workers will be offered early retirement.

The agency also made early retirement offers last year but unions discouraged their members from accepting the offers and they were not widely used. The post office did not say if the new proposal would include financial incentives.

The American Postal Workers Union issued a statement Friday saying: "Retirement is a personal matter, and the union defers to the decisions of employees who meet the qualifications."

However, the union said it continues to challenge the Postal Service's authority to offer voluntary early retirement without including severance pay.

The post office's annual report for 2008 lists 765,088 employees.

negligence lawsuits. Additionally, some U.S. investors will be able to receive up to \$500,000 from an industry fund for people whose money has vanished in a brokerage failure, the Securities Investor Protection Corp. The reality for many victims, though, is that they will be in a long line of investors fighting to recoup a fraction of what they lost.

Protesters visit AIG officials' lavish Conn. homes

FAIRFIELD, Conn. (AP)—A busload of activists representing working- and middle-class families paid visits Saturday to the lavish homes of American International Group executives to protest the tens of millions of dollars in bonuses awarded by the struggling insurance company after it received a massive federal bailout. About 40 protesters sought to urge AIG executives who received a portion of the \$165 million in bonuses to do more to help families. "We think \$165 million could be used in a more appropriate way to keep people in their homes, create more jobs and health care," said Emeline Bravo-Blackport, a gardener. She marveled at AIG executive James Haas' colonial house, which has stunning views of a golf course and the Long Island Sound. The Fairfield house is "another part of the world" from her life in nearby Bridgeport, which flirted with bankruptcy in the 1990s and still struggles with foreclosures and unemployment. "Lord, I wonder what it's like to live in a house that size," she said.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Administration wants to buy up banks' toxic assets

WASHINGTON (AP)—Struggling to contain the worst financial crisis in seven decades, the Obama administration wants to buy billions of dollars of toxic assets from banks to ease borrowing for consumers and businesses. Some industry officials familiar with the details said Saturday they expected the approach would try to remove as much as \$1 trillion from banks' books. According to administration and industry officials, the plan would rely on the Federal Reserve and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. to supplement the government's \$700 billion bailout fund. The uproar over the millions of dollars in bonuses for employees at troubled insurance giant American International Group Inc. has dimmed prospects for getting more bailout money from Congress.

Details emerge of money to refund Madoff victims

NEW YORK (AP)—A clearer picture is emerging of how much money might be available to pay back victims of the Bernard Madoff fraud, but while the pot is big it is nowhere near enough to repair all the damage. It includes nearly \$1 billion held by Madoff's company and potentially more than \$100 million in personal assets that include luxury homes, cars and boats. Several banks, hedge fund managers and others who led clients to Madoff may wind up paying huge settlements to resolve



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950



INVITATION FOR BID IFB 09-009

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the purchase, delivery, installation, and assembly of **Desktop & Laptop Computer Systems, other equipments and Accessories for Garapan Elementary School (GES)**. Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All proposals shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "IFB 09-009" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and shall be submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than **March 27, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.** Responsibility Determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "IFB 09-009, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination" (one (1)-original and one (3) copies). Any bid after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Juan D. Babauta, PSS Acting Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: **babautajd@pss.cnmi.mp**.

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all proposals, in whole or in part, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All proposals shall become the property of the Public School System.

/S/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Juan D. Babauta
Acting, P&S Officer

Nation

3 officers dead, suspect killed in Oakland, Calif.



AP
Law enforcement officers find cover behind a car on 73rd Avenue in Oakland Calif. on Saturday, March 21, 2009 while responding to the shooting in Oakland, Calif.

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—A man wanted for violating his parole killed three officers and gravely wounded another in two shootings Saturday, the first after a routine traffic stop and the second after a massive manhunt ended in gunfire, authorities said. The gunman was also killed.

Two officers were shot in the first incident just after 1 p.m. after they

stopped a suspect's vehicle in east Oakland, said Oakland police spokesman Jeff Thomason.

The suspect fled the scene on foot into a nearby neighborhood, police said, leading to an intense manhunt by dozens of Oakland police, California Highway Patrol officers and Alameda County sheriff deputies. Streets were roped off and an entire area of east

Oakland closed to traffic.

At about 3:30 p.m. officers, acting on an anonymous tip, found the suspect barricaded inside an apartment building, police said.

Police said the suspect, 27-year-old Lovelle Mixon of Oakland, fired an assault rifle at officers who came into the building to arrest him. Two officers were killed and a third was grazed by a

bullet, police said.

Acting Oakland police Chief Howard Jordan said police returned fire, killing Mixon.

The slain officers were identified as Sgt. Mark Dunakin, 40, who was killed at the first shooting. The two members of the SWAT team who were killed at the second location were Sgt. Ervin Romans, 43, and Sgt. Daniel Sakai, 35. Officer John Hege, 41, is in grave condition.

Somber officers at the police station hugged and consoled each other.

"This is probably one of the worst incidents that has ever taken place in this history of the Oakland police department," Thomason said.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger said it was a tragic day.

"All four officers dedicated their lives to public safety and selflessly worked to protect the people of Oakland," he said in a statement. "Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of those lost, the Oakland Police Department and law enforcement officers throughout California during this difficult time."

More 'fight club' allegations at Texas school

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—Nine employees are under investigation over allegations of new fights among mentally disabled residents of the troubled Corpus Christi State School, a state lawmaker said Saturday night.

State Rep. Abel Herrero said the workers are on leave while officials look into complaints that the staff members did nothing to intervene in the fights involving residents Wednesday and Thursday.

The new allegations follow six staffers being charged earlier this month with injury to a disabled person over separate fights allegedly organized for the staff's entertainment. Videos of those fights were found on a cell phone.

"Appalling," said Herrero, a Corpus Christi-area Democrat. "Completely unacceptable. It's important that the state exhaust every resource

to once and for all ensure the safety and well-being of our state's most vulnerable population."

Herrero had few details involving the new incidents but said one of them involved accusations against six staff members and the other involved three workers. At least one of the incidents was reported in a phone call to state investigators. The workers were accused of having been nearby when fights occurred but not intervening.

Jay Kimbrough, chief of staff for Gov. Rick Perry's office, told the Corpus Christi Caller-Times that the recent incidents don't include allegations that fights were encouraged by employees.

On Friday, video of the earlier fights were shown at a Corpus Christi bond hearing for a former employee accused of staging the bouts. State officials, local police and the FBI are investigating the allegations of staged fights.

4 dead in upstate NY group home fire

WELLS, N.Y. (AP)—Four of the nine residents of a state-run group home in the southern Adirondacks are dead after a fire gutted the home early Saturday morning.

Gov. David Paterson says the fire started around 5:30 a.m. in the Riverview group home operated by the state Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities in Wells, a lakeside community 56 miles northwest of Albany.

Despite the efforts of several volunteer fire departments, four residents died—two at the site and two while being airlifted to Albany Medical Center.

The deceased include two men, age 52 and 32, and two women, age 43 and 60, officials said. State mental hygiene law protecting patient privacy prohibits release of the names, they said.

A 71-year-old resident was being



AP
Investigators and rescue workers are seen at the burned remains of a group home for disabled persons, in Wells, N.Y. on Saturday, March 21, 2009.

treated at a Utica hospital, and the other four residents, age 46 to 64, were relocated to another home, officials said. The two staff members also survived.

When the fire alarm went off in the

ranch-style home, the two staff members on duty overnight went to investigate and found the back section of the house fully engulfed in flames, said Nicole Weinstein, spokeswoman for the Office of Mental Retardation.

Protests in Washington, Calif. call for war's end

WASHINGTON (AP)—Before war protesters ended their demonstration Saturday afternoon, several placed cardboard coffins in front of the offices of northern Virginia defense contractors such as KBR Inc. and Lockheed Martin Corp. as riot police stood by.

"Lockheed Martin you can't hide, we charge you with genocide!" they chanted as part of a demonstration that began in Washington to mark the sixth anniversary of the invasion of Iraq.

Arlington County, Va., police estimated there were 2,500 to 3,000 protesters and said no arrests were made.

Organizers from the ANSWER Coalition said more than 1,000 groups sponsored the protest to call for an end to the Iraq war, and estimated that about 10,000 people participated. Carrying signs saying "We need jobs and schools, not war" and "Indict Bush," demonstrators beat drums and played

trumpets as they marched from near the Lincoln Memorial past the Pentagon into Virginia.

Meanwhile, at a similar protest in San Francisco, tension grew after four or five dozen activists surrounded a group of riot-equipped police, throwing sticks and water bottles. Police responded by regrouping in riot formation and physically detaining several protesters who pushed and shoved with officers.

Protest leaders shouted from the stage, urging police to leave. Barriers were quickly erected between police and protesters as an organizer urged calm and the activists started to disperse.

In Washington, protesters demanded that President Barack Obama immediately withdraw all U.S. troops from Iraq, saying thousands of Iraqis have died and thousands of American troops have been wounded or killed.

ACROSS THE NATION

Former ambassador to Vatican to be honored

SOUTH BEND, Ind. (AP)—Mary Ann Glendon, former U.S. ambassador to the Vatican, will be honored by the University of Notre Dame with its Laetare Medal. The school announced Sunday it will present Glendon with the medal - considered the most prestigious honor for American Catholics - during its May 17 commencement, at which President Barack Obama will deliver the commencement address. Since 1883, the Laetare Medal has been awarded an-

nually to a Catholic "whose genius has ennobled the arts and sciences, illustrated the ideals of the church and enriched the heritage of humanity."

Bride says wedding night arrest was humiliating

HOUSTON (AP)—A woman who claims she was humiliated on her wedding night because she had to spend it in jail in her wedding gown has filed a complaint with Texas authorities. Jade Puckett, 26, filed the complaint mid-week over a picture taken while she was

in a courtroom in her wedding dress. "It had turned the best day of my life into my greatest nightmare," she said in the complaint. She and Billy Puckett, also 26, were arrested following their March 14 reception as part of a Harris County sweep targeting drunken drivers. Billy Puckett was charged with driving while intoxicated. Officers said his new wife was charged with public intoxication after she became belligerent. She said she was then kept in a cell overnight—still in her wedding dress—with 15 or 20 other arrested women. She said male deputies

at least three times opened the cell door to point her out to other jailers.

Alleged 'enemy combatant' faces trial in Illinois

PEORIA, Ill. (AP)—Ali al-Marri followed his older brother to central Illinois in the mid-1980s to pursue a business education unavailable in his native Qatar, becoming a Bulls fan and honing his pool-playing skills. He returned for further study more than 10 years later, bringing along his wife and five children. But Al-Marri's third trip to the

area comes under far different circumstances - facing trial on federal charges alleging he supported al-Qaida terrorists. His first court appearance is Monday. Al-Marri, 43, was arrested in late 2001 while studying at Bradley University in Peoria after federal authorities alleged he was an al-Qaida sleeper agent tied to organizers of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. He was a legal U.S. resident but became the only "enemy combatant" in custody on American soil. He was held without charges for more than five years at a Navy brig in South Carolina.

Asia

'Detained US reporters are likely in Pyongyang'

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—American journalists detained by North Korean soldiers are believed to have been sent to Pyongyang for questioning, a news report said Sunday.

North Korea said Saturday it was investigating two Americans it detained Tuesday for "illegally intruding" into its territory after crossing the border from China.

A brief dispatch from the North's official Korean Central News Agency gave no other details, but it was apparent confirmation of reported arrests of two female U.S. journalists re-

porting on North Korean refugees in the border area.

South Korean media and a South Korean missionary identified the two detained Americans as Laura Ling and Euna Lee, reporters for former Vice President Al Gore's San Francisco-based media outlet Current TV.

A U.S. official said Saturday that the U.S. has been in touch with North Korean representatives about the journalists and is awaiting a reply. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity citing the sensitivity of the issue, said the U.S. doesn't know where the

North is holding them.

South Korea's Yonhap news agency said Sunday, in a report from the Chinese city of Yanji, that it is highly likely that they were sent to Pyongyang to be investigated for their alleged border intrusion.

"Considering the significance of the case, there is a high possibility that the two U.S. journalists have been sent to Pyongyang and are undergoing a direct investigation" by the North's spy agency and military, Yonhap quoted a source in China it described as privy to North Korean affairs.

Govt building attacked in Tibetan area

BEIJING (AP)—About 20 people attacked a government building in a Tibetan area in western China after a man accused of supporting separatism escaped from police custody, a state news agency reported Sunday.

Zhaxi Sangwu of Qinghai province had been under investigation for advocating Tibetan independence when he left a police station in Gyal township Saturday, prompting a manhunt, the official Xinhua News Agency said.

Xinhua cited authorities from the Tibetan prefecture of

Golog as saying the man fled after asking to go to the toilet and remained at large. It cited a witness as saying he was seen swimming in the Yellow River, but police could only find the man's clothes by the river.

Officials who answered calls at the local public security bureau and the government said they had heard nothing about the incident.

Xinhua's report gave no reason for or details of the violence that resulted.

But a report on what appeared to be the same incident by the

Tibetan exile Web site phayul.com claimed the protest erupted because a man jumped into the Yellow River to commit suicide after escaping police while going to the toilet.

Phayul.com's report cited an anonymous source in Dharmasala, India, who was a former resident of the area, as saying the man was 28-year-old monk Tashi Sangpo—which is pronounced similarly to the Chinese name Zhaxi Sangwu. The source said police found a Tibetan national flag and political leaflets in his room.

Abu Sayyaf renege on deal to free worker

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Al-Qaida-linked militants have reneged on an agreement to free one of three Red Cross hostages, demanding a larger military pullout from their southern Philippine stronghold than the original deal specified, an official said Saturday.

Senator Richard Gordon, who also heads the Philippine National Red Cross, said no hostage has been released by

Abu Sayyaf commander Albadar Parad despite the withdrawal of troops on Thursday from an area close to the militants' position near Indanan township on Jolo island.

Clashes in the area earlier in the week killed three Philippine marines and seven militants.

Gordon said he spoke with Parad late Wednesday by cell phone and persuaded him to release a hostage if troops pull

back from the area, which has been surrounded by marines and armed village guards for weeks.

Gordon said "Albadar is now asking for two-thirds" of Jolo—a larger portion of the island than originally agreed upon. The Abu Sayyaf have been holding the Red Cross workers—Swiss Andreas Notter, Filipino Mary Jean Lacaba and Italian Eugenio Vagni—on Jolo since January.

criminal and civil cases and appointing several panels of jurists, according to a press release from the highest court in the al-Qaida-threatened, U.S.-allied country. Then-President Pervez Musharraf deposed Chaudhry in 2007 after the independent-minded judge began examining cases that could have embarrassed the military ruler or threatened his legitimacy as he sought a new term in office.

Hong Kong: Grace Mugabe immune in alleged attack

HONG KONG (AP)—Zimbabwean first lady Grace Mugabe is immune from prosecution for her alleged attack on a British photographer in Hong Kong, the government said Sunday. Richard Jones said Mugabe punched him in the face when he was taking pictures of her near a luxury hotel on Jan. 15 while on assignment for The Sunday Times. Mugabe is exempt from prosecution under Chinese regulations on diplomatic immunity and privileges, Hong Kong's Department of Justice said in a statement sent to The Associated Press. Jones and The Sunday Times said they are upset by the decision.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Suicide car bomber kills 6 in eastern Afghanistan

KABUL (AP)—A suicide car bomber attacked a police checkpoint in eastern Afghanistan on Saturday, killing six people, police said, as the American envoy to the country said the U.S. would push for a "very significant increase" in the country's police force to improve security and stability. Richard Holbrooke, who is the special envoy to both Pakistan and Afghanistan, said current plans to increase Afghanistan's national police from 78,000 to 82,000 over the next four years were "not sufficient." Afghan police, who have less training and fewer weapons than Afghan and international soldiers, often bear the brunt of insurgent attacks.

Pakistan's top judge back at work after protests

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistan's top judge resumed his post at the Supreme Court on Sunday following two years of political turmoil over his ouster. Iftikhar Mohammed Chaudhry tackled routine duties such as approving dates for hearings in several

World

Pope pushes for Angolans to convert; stampede kills two

LUANDA, Angola (AP)—Tens of thousands of Angola's Catholics lined the streets of the capital Saturday for a blessing from Pope Benedict XVI, who urged the country's faithful to reach out and convert people who believe in witchcraft.

But a stampede at a stadium before one of the pope's speeches left two people dead and others injured.

"The pope is very upset," a Vatican spokesman, the Rev. Federico Lombardi, said late Saturday.

The stampede broke out as the gates to Coqueiros stadium opened hours before Benedict arrived, Lombardi said.

Portuguese news agency LUSA cited an unidentified source at a local hospital as saying a man and a woman were killed, eight others were hospitalized with minor injuries, and 10 were given medical assistance at the site.

An AP reporter saw another stampede break out when the pope arrived, and at least 20 people were taken away in ambulances.

The 81-year-old pontiff, wearing white robes, looked tired and moved slowly in the tropical heat during the stadium appearance before some

30,000 people in late afternoon. He gave a message of hope to young people, including some wounded and maimed during Angola's long civil war that started with Angola's 1975 independence from Portugal and ended in 2002.

the local peoples and the Portuguese settlers. Eighty percent of the 16 million people are Christian, about 65 percent Catholic.

Benedict began his day addressing Catholic clergymen and nuns, telling them to be

missionaries to those Angolans "living in fear of spirits, of malign and threatening powers. In their bewilderment they end up even condemning street children and the elderly as alleged sorcerers."

In Africa, some churchgoing Catholics also follow traditional animist religions and consult medicine men and diviners who are denounced by the church. People accused of sorcery or of being possessed by evil powers sometimes are killed by fearful mobs.

Local media have reported that police last year rescued 40 children who had been held by two religious sects after being accused by their own families of witchcraft.

Benedict counseled Catholics to "live peacefully" with animists and other nonbelievers and urged Angolans to be the "new missionaries" to bring people who believe in sorcery to Christ.



A girl reacts as Pope Benedict XVI arrives at a gathering for youth in the city of Luanda, Angola, Saturday, March 21, 2009.

WORLD BRIEFS

Israel police ban Arab culture day in Jerusalem

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israeli authorities broke up a series of Palestinian cultural events in Jerusalem on Saturday, disrupting a children's march and bursting balloons at a schoolyard celebration in a crackdown that underscored the emotional battle over control of the disputed holy city. Elsewhere in Jerusalem, hundreds of Israelis gathered outside the residence of Prime Minister Ehud Olmert to mark the 1,000th day in captivity of an Israeli soldier held by Hamas militants in the Gaza Strip. The demonstration took place at a protest tent set up by the soldier's family, and many in the crowd quietly waved yellow glow sticks in a show of solidarity. Palestinian activists called for Saturday's celebrations to mark the Arab League's designation of Jerusalem as the capital of Arab culture for 2009. The 23-nation group chooses a different city for the honor each year. But Israel said the events violated a ban on Palestinian political activity in Jerusalem. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas criticized the crackdown.

Venezuela brings ports under federal control

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Venezuela's federal government seized seaports and airstrips in at least four states on Saturday, a move critics say is meant to limit the powers of mayors and governors opposed to President Hugo Chavez. The takeover, ordered by Venezuela's socialist president last weekend and approved by law-

makers, aims to bring the country's major transportation hubs under federal control this year. Military troops were dispatched to ports in the three Venezuelan states governed by Chavez opponents: Zulia, Carabobo and Nueva Esparta. Chavez said the takeover of air and sea ports in the state of Anzoategui, which is governed by a Chavez ally, was also under way. The socialist leader said his government will formulate a "strategic investment plan" to modernize the ports and to guarantee the jobs of thousands of workers in the facilities.

2 US Navy vessels that collided arrives in Bahrain

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP)—A U.S. Navy submarine and amphibious ship arrived at a Bahrain port Saturday after colliding the day before in a strategic passageway in the Persian Gulf, the Navy said. The two naval vessels were brought to the Mina Salman pier for further damage assessment, the U.S. Fifth Fleet said in a statement. It said the cause of the collision was under investigation. The USS *Hartford*, a nuclear-powered submarine, and the USS *New Orleans*, an amphibious ship, were heading to the port and were going in the same direction when they crashed before dawn Friday in the narrow Strait of Hormuz. Fifteen sailors aboard the *Hartford* were slightly injured. Both ships were on regularly scheduled deployments to the region and conducting security operations, the Bahrain-based Fifth Fleet said.

Health & Fitness

Brain injury victims can seem OK, symptoms delayed

At first, Natasha Richardson said she felt fine after she took a spill on a Canadian ski slope. But that's not unusual for people who suffer traumatic head injuries like the one that killed the actress.

Doctors say sometimes patients with brain injuries have what's called a "lucid interval" where they act fine for an hour or more as the brain slowly, silently swells or bleeds. Later, back at her hotel, Richardson fell ill, complained of a headache, and was taken to a hospital. She died Wednesday in New York.

An autopsy Thursday showed that the 45-year-old actress hit her head,

which caused bleeding between the skull and the brain's covering, resulting in what's called an epidural hematoma. It's a type of injury often caused by a skull fracture.

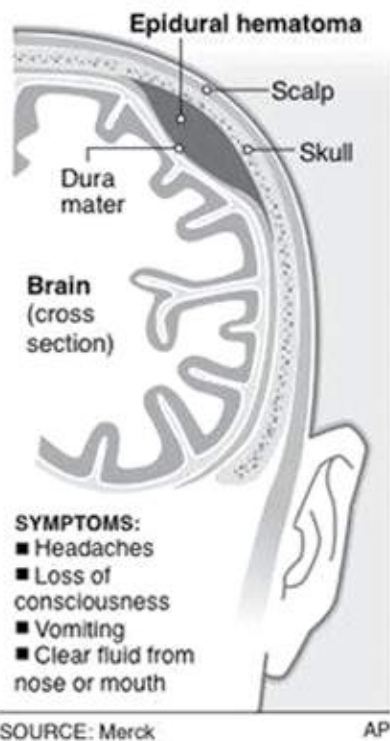
Because of that lucid interval, doctors always tell patients who seem OK after a brain injury to have someone keep a close eye on them, in case symptoms emerge.

Symptoms - headache; loss of con-

sciousness; vomiting; problems seeing, speaking or moving; confusion; drainage of a clear fluid from the nose or

Head trauma

Blows to the head can cause epidural hematomas which involve bleeding and swelling between the skull and the dura mater.



mouth - appear after enough pressure builds in the skull. By then it's an emergency.

"Once you have more swelling, it causes more trauma which causes more swelling," said Dr. Edward Aulisi, neurosurgery chief at Washington Hospital Center in the nation's capital. "It's a vicious cycle because everything's inside a closed space."

Pressure can force the brain downward to press on the brain stem that controls breathing and other vital functions, causing coma or death. Frequently, surgeons cut off a portion of the skull to give the brain room to swell. Or they drain the blood and remove clots that formed.

"This is a very treatable condition if you're aware of what the problem is and the patient is quickly transferred to a hospital," said Dr. Keith Siller of New York University Langone Medical Center. "But there is very little time to correct this."

Details of Richardson's treatment have not been disclosed.

A CT scan can detect bleeding, bruising or the beginning of swelling after an injury. The challenge is for patients to know whether to seek one.

"If there's any question in your mind whatsoever, you get a head CT," Aulisi advised. "It's the best 20 seconds you ever spent in your life." (AP)

Protect your vision

By LINDSAY MINNEMA
(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

These days, computers are a vital part of everyday life. But all that screen time puts strain on the eyes. The American Optometric Association (AOA) recommends you rest your eyes frequently—by looking away from the computer for 20 seconds or so—and blink forcefully or use a humidifier to keep them moist. Here are some more suggestions for dealing with what the AOA calls computer vision syndrome:

- Adjust your monitor to its highest resolution. The better clarity will be more comfortable on the eyes. But if the high resolution makes things too small to see, try boosting the font size.

- Minimize reflected glare on you monitor with dimmer lights or glare reduction filters. (Look for filters with the AOA Seal of Acceptance.) If you can, eliminate bright light from your peripheral vision and position your monitor perpendicular to windows or lights.

- Work at a distance that is comfortable for you. You should not have to strain to see the screen.

- Talk to your optometrist about the computer work you do. General eyeglass prescriptions, such as bifocals, may not be adequate since computers are usually further and higher than most other reading tasks.

March is Save Your Vision Month, so check out www.aoa.org for more on healthy.

■■■

Stretching is an important, though often forgotten, part of any workout routine. But stretching incorrectly can be just as damaging to your body as not stretching at all. Here are some tips for safe, effective stretches:

- Start by warming up. Get the blood flowing with a slow jog or other relaxed exercise. Never stretch cold muscles.

- After warming up, but before

your workout gets going, do dynamic stretches with slow, flowing movements. This is better than holding stretches—a move better suited to after the workout.

- Different workouts can lead to different injuries. Learn warm-ups and stretches particular to your sport so you're working the right muscles.

- After your workout, do those static, holding stretches mentioned above. Hold each stretch for about 30 seconds.

- Never stretch so long or so far that it hurts. It might be slightly uncomfortable but shouldn't be painful.

See WebMD.com for more on these and other stretching tips.

■■■

When it comes to curious children and household chemicals, poisoning is a very real and serious risk. The most common cases of poisoning, however, aren't caused by the cleaners under your kitchen sink but by the prescription and over-the-counter drugs found in your medicine cabinet. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) offers these tips for keeping your kids safe:

- Keep drugs in childproof, out-of-reach cabinets.

- Avoid taking medicine in front of kids because they often like to imitate you.

- Never call medicine "candy," even to get your child to take it.

- Don't leave your next dose on the counter or table within reach of little ones.

- To that end, don't leave medicines sitting out when you are done using them. Put them away immediately.

- Post the poison control number in a quickly found place near your phone: 1-800-222-1222. This line is useful if the victim is awake and alert. But, if he or she has collapsed or is not breathing, call 911.

For more, visit the CDC Web site, www.cdc.gov.

Study: 'Smart drug' Provigil may be habit-forming

CHICAGO (AP)—A so-called "smart drug" popular with young people may carry more of an addiction risk than thought, a small government study suggests. Scans of 10 healthy men showed that the prescription drug Provigil caused changes in the brain's pleasure center, very much like potentially habit-forming classic stimulants. Modafinil, the drug's generic name, is sometimes used as an illegal study aid by college students.

"It would be wonderful if one could take a drug and be smarter, faster or have more energy," said Dr. Nora Volkow, director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse, who led the study with a Brookhaven National Laboratory scientist. "But that is like fairy tales. We currently have nothing that has those benefits without side effects."

The study, appearing in Wednesday's *Journal of the American Medical Association*, may bust the myth that the drug is safe for healthy people, experts said.

Provigil is approved to treat excessive daytime sleepiness caused by narcolepsy. On the market since 1999, it's the flagship product of Cephalon Inc.

of Frazer, Pa., and its sales approached \$1 billion last year. The company is developing a spin-off called Nuvigil.

Modafinil's reputation as a brain enhancer stems from an Air Force study that found it improved the performance of sleep-deprived fighter pilots. College students buy and sell it illegally, as they do Ritalin and Adderall, to stay alert while studying.

Several scientists recently wrote in the journal *Nature* that healthy people should have the right to boost their brains with pills like Provigil. One author of that commentary, brain scientist Martha Farah of the University of Pennsylvania, said the new study "goes to show that we need a little caution and a little humility when we're messing around with our brain chemistry."

"But even now, after all the years that it has been on the market, we are still learning things about it that are relevant to its safety," Farah said.

The men in the study were 23 to 46 years old. They received either a dummy pill or modafinil. Effects were measured by PET scans, which showed that the drug increased dopamine, the brain's "feel-good" neurotransmitters.



An undated photo provided by Frazer, Pa.-based Cephalon, Inc., shows bottles of its prescription drug Provigil.

Attempting to zap Parkinson's through spinal cord

By LAURAN NEERGAARD
AP MEDICAL WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—Implanting a pacemaker-like device deep in the brain helps some Parkinson's disease patients move better, but could less risky zapping of the spinal cord work instead? It did in mice and rats nearly immobilized with Parkinson's-like symptoms: Scientists at Duke University Medical Center turned on the electricity and videotaped the rodents immediately scurrying around almost like normal.

The research, reported in Friday's edition of the journal *Science*, is just a first step. More animal testing is needed to tell if the approach could be tried in people. Implants in marmosets, a type of primate, are to begin soon.

But sufferers of chronic pain already can have spinal cord stimulators implanted that send electrical currents to block the "I'm hurting" messages sent to and from the brain. For Parkinson's, the idea is similar.

The 1.5 million Americans with Parkinson's gradually lose brain cells that produce dopamine, a chemical key to the circuitry that controls muscle movement. The result: Haywire brain signaling that leads to increasingly severe tremors and periodically stiff or frozen limbs. Medication helps early in the disease. More severely affected patients may try "deep brain stimulation," where wires are implanted inside the brain to deliver tiny electrical zaps that disable overactive nerve cells and improve motor control.

Exploring a less invasive approach, the Duke team attached tiny wires to the spinal cords of mice and rats whose brains produced so little dopamine that they had the slow, stiff motions of advanced Parkinson's disease.

When the electricity was turned on, the animals became 26 times more active and movement visibly improved in seconds, Duke neuroscientist Dr. Miguel Nicolelis and colleagues wrote.

Why would it work?

Proper movement requires orderly nerve cell firing to different muscles at different moments in time, like members of an orchestra must play in proper sequence for a symphony.

There's increasing if circumstantial evidence that rhythmic waves of brain activity, called oscillations, play a role in Parkinson's movement problems - and that interrupting those abnormal waves allows the more normal, symphony-like brain cell firing to resume, said Dr. Walter Koroshetz, deputy director of the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, which helped fund the work.

Life & Style

Report: Richardson's casket taken to upstate home

NEW YORK (AP)—A mahogany casket bearing Natasha Richardson's body was taken Saturday to the country home where she married Liam Neeson in 1994, according to a published report.

The actress' coffin—emblazoned with an Irish claddagh symbol, signifying love, friendship and loyalty—was driven from a Manhattan townhouse to the couple's farmhouse near upstate Millbrook, the New York Daily News reported. Screen and stage stars had paid their respects at a private viewing the night before.

The newspaper said state police and local sheriff's deputies kept reporters at a distance as a silver-colored hearse turned into the couple's home, in a scenic stretch of hills and horse farms about 90 miles north of New York City in the Hudson Valley.

Richardson's maternal grandmother, the actress Rachel Kempson, died while visiting her granddaughter and Neeson there in 2003.

On Saturday night, there was a "road closed" sign on the entrance to the rural road to the couple's property.

There has been no official word on a funeral, but reports have suggested one is planned Sunday in Millbrook. State police and the Dutchess County Sheriff's office said Saturday night they had no information on any arrangements for Richardson.

Richardson, 45, died Wednesday at a



Pallbearers carry the casket of actress Natasha Richardson from the American Irish Historical Society in New York on Saturday, March 21, 2009.

New York hospital after falling and hitting her head while skiing in Canada.

Neeson greeted a stream of celebrity mourners at a private viewing Fri-

day at the American Irish Historical Society's headquarters in a Manhattan townhouse. Actors Ralph Fiennes and Ethan Hawke, actresses Uma

Thurman and Sarah Jessica Parker, the designer Kenneth Cole and shock jock Howard Stern were among those who paid their respects.

Metallica invades SXSW as 'young band from Norway'

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—Invading South By Southwest, Metallica attempted to pose as one of the hundreds of smaller bands there just hoping to get a record deal.

"We're a young band from Norway and we want to get signed," Metallica frontman James Hetfield told the audience at the heavy metal band's SXSW performance Friday night.

It was a widely expected but not officially announced show at a venue (Stubb's) that for a band like Metallica is downright minuscule, holding about 2,100 people. The band played for slightly more than an hour, performing both classics and, as Hetfield called it, "new stuff" off their 2008 album "Death Magnetic" - a disc widely considered a return to form for the 28-year-old group.

But despite Hetfield's mock camouflage (and poor Norwegian accent), Metallica stood out on the SXSW landscape Friday. With more than 50 million albums sold, Metallica has probably outsold the other 1,900-plus bands at SXSW combined.

Droves of die-hard fans, catching wind of the rumors, lined up all day outside Stubb's, where Metallica 18-wheelers parked outside.

Metallica was in Austin for the day to promote their new "Guitar Hero" video game. To be released March 29, it's the latest rock star simulator dedicated to a single band following last year's "Guitar Hero: Aerosmith."

It may seem like a lot of fanfare for a videogame but "Guitar Hero" and its rival "Rock Band" have proven to be one of few growing revenue streams in

a declining music industry.

In an interview before the show, Hetfield said the band wanted to play at SXSW—an old-school, small live show—to balance the promotion of the very contemporary, tech-savvy "Guitar Hero: Metallica."

"Here is the grass roots. Here is the basis of why we like music. Artists are getting up in front of 2,100 people and giving it what they got," Hetfield said of SXSW. "We've always wanted to support live music. We've been road dogs since the day after high school."

Now, Hetfield laughs at the idea that Metallica—who, in one of their most popular songs, sing: "Master of puppets, I'm pulling your strings"—have effectively been made digital puppets for kids to play with.

"When (drummer Lars Ulrich) and I were sitting in a garage in Norwalk, California, bashing out a horrible version of 'Hit the Lights,' we were not thinking that this was going to be happening anytime soon," Hetfield said. "I've watched people play us. They're pretty good at us."

Hetfield has been more interested in observing his three children—ages 7, 8 and 10—play their father.

At the prospect of playing the game as Ulrich, Hetfield laughs and groans: "Good Lord. We've done some role-playing swapping in therapy already." (In the 2004 documentary "Some Kind of Monster," the band famously resorted to therapy sessions to heal rifts between each other.)

Instead, Hetfield will stick with real performance.

"Have you seen some good bands here?" Hetfield asked the crowd Friday

before exiting the stage. "Hope we're one of them."

Peter Bjorn & John overcome train wreck SXSW show

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—At South By Southwest, disastrous shows can happen easily. This year, the Swedish pop trio Peter Bjorn and John was one of the unfortunate bands led to SXSW slaughter.

The hundreds of bands are rushed on stage rapidly at the annual Austin music conference and festival, and they rarely get enough time to properly set up or tune.

The start of the first show by the acclaimed Peter Bjorn and John on Wednesday night was delayed and, when they finally started playing, equipment problems caused long interruptions and ruined the set. The unsympathetic crowd heckled and booed.

"It was an awful show," said Peter Moren, the band's lead singer, able to smile painfully about it in an interview Friday. "But it's also good that stuff like that happens occasionally. Otherwise you become bigheaded."

For Peter Bjorn and John, the 10-year-old trio whose fifth album "Living Thing" will be released on March 31, the issue of performance perfection is always relevant. They are pop craftsmen who create tightly woven songs (often about love) by mixing guitars, synthesizers, acoustic instruments, samples and other sounds.

But live—when everything doesn't go wrong—their songs don't come off too stale or manicured. They'll play

a punk song amid a set of synth pop. Drummer John Eriksson says he likes "mayhem and mistakes" and even would have enjoyed being in the audience for their train wreck show.

Peter Bjorn and John emerged in 2006 with their third album "Writer's Block," which carried the infectious hit single "Young Folks," (even Kanye West sampled it). They followed it up

with the instrumental 2008 disc "Seaside Rock."

The three members—all songwriters—have side projects, as well. Moren released a solo album last year named after the F. Scott Fitzgerald novel "The Last Tycoon." Bjorn Ytting has become an in-demand producer. He co-produced last year's acclaimed debut from Lykke Li, "Youth Novels."



This undated picture provided by Press Here Publicity shows, from left to right, John Eriksson, Peter Moren and Bjorn Ytting of the the Swedish trio Peter Bjorn and John.

Berkeley students dominate college TV awards

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Tales of a physicist-turned-terrorist, a boy confronting his grandfather's death and a musician who performs with Coca-Cola bottles are among the winners at the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences Foundation's 30th College Television Awards.

Four honors went to the University of California, Berkeley, at the Culver Studios ceremony hosted by Tom Bergeron of "Dancing with the Stars." Students from the University of California, Los Angeles grabbed three.

The record 712 student videos and films submitted represents almost twice the number of entries received the previous year. They came from 214 schools in 42 states.

Jordan Pack and James Jackson of Brigham Young University won the animated category for "Kites," about a young boy coping with the death of his grandfather. Jennifer Grace of Montana State University won the children's category with "Frog, Chemical, Water, You" about the decline of the worldwide amphibian population.

Other winners included:

■ Comedy: "Lucy: A Period Piece," Julie Sagalowsky and Josh Feldman of UCLA.

■ Documentary: "Standard Deviation," David Randag and Christopher Brannan of The University of Florida.

■ Drama: "Acholiand," Daniel Harich of the American Film Institute (Los Angeles).

Nicolas Cage brings restraint to thriller 'Knowing'

By GEOFF BOUCHER
(C) 2009, LOS ANGELES TIMES

HOLLYWOOD—"Eccentric" can be a coded insult when it comes to Hollywood leading men unless they happen to be named Johnny Depp. Take Nicolas Cage, whose bellowing, wild-eyed performances can make him seem as measured as a man with his head on fire—and not just in "Ghost Rider."

A different Cage is in theaters Friday in the Alex Proyas thriller "Knowing." In this movie, the star known for "taking chances" (another bit of code) is a model of restraint in a world wobbling on the edge of disaster.

"This is the perfect movie for what I wanted to do at this time," said Cage, now 45 and 26 years removed from his breakthrough performance in the quirky "Valley Girl." "I'm attracted to science fiction films because they are the place now where you can address powerful subjects in an abstract landscape. These are the films today that ask the intelligent questions. My feeling too is that when you're in a film with extreme and paranormal things happening, one approach is to take the character to a very natural performance, which is the choice that Alex and I made with this film."

The result is a caged Cage, one that might remind some viewers of Bruce Willis in his relatively stately performance in "The Sixth Sense." Like that 1999 hit thriller, "Knowing" presents a man trying to make sense of a disturbing puzzle that has a youngster at the center of it. Cage portrays John Koestler, an astrophysics professor at Massachusetts Institute of Technology whose son, Caleb (played by Chandler Canterbury), attends a school ceremony at which a 50-year-old time capsule is opened. The child ends up with a piece of paper from the capsule that is covered with rows of numbers; his father discovers that the digits are hardly random—they accurately predicted the date, death toll and coordinates of every major disaster since the Eisenhower administration.

The perplexed scientist delves further into the mystery and a dark suspicion begins to grip him: The document might foretell a looming disaster of global proportions.

"He's a man of science with a pragmatic view of the world," Cage said. "He subscribes to the world view that everything can be explained by science, and Alex and I both agreed that he should be constantly challenging these incredible happenings. His disbelief makes the movie believable. And the approach of the filmmaking is natural and realistic, but also very gripping and unique. And that's Alex. Alex Proyas is definitely an artist. I've enjoyed his work for many years."

To ground the film, Proyas, whose previous projects include "The Crow," "Dark City" and "I, Robot," put in references to the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, and also took the supernatural script toward science fiction: "It's a genre I'm se-



Nicolas Cage stars in the upcoming film "Knowing."

LOS ANGELES TIMES

cure in; there are rules and parameters around the story. ... To me the film is about a spiritual quest for this man who believes the universe is governed by random principles (not destiny)."

The director mulled over different leading men but Cage kept coming back to mind.

"There's an incredible range of extremes in his work, he's been very brave in his choice of roles and the way he plays them and I always admired that," Proyas said. "He has this combination of intelligence and passion both as an actor and as a person."

As the movie hurtles along, Cage's character seeks out the predicted calamities. Two scenes will be certain conversation pieces for moviegoers: a plane crash and a subway disaster, both filmed with spare, methodical camera movement that heightens the shock of impact as well as the fragility of the human body amid metal masses. Proyas said it was not the modern ballet version of

movie mayhem.

"Right before you're in a car accident, the orchestra doesn't play really loudly right before it happens," Proyas said. "I wanted this naturalistic approach. I also didn't want to glamorize the events. ... I wanted it to be raw and brutal in every way."

For Cage, coming off "Bangkok Dangerous," "National Treasure: Book of Secrets" and "Next" (which also had a see-the-future plot), he was concerned about the caliber of his next film, literally.

"I'm at a place in my career where I'm a bit concerned about the frequency of seeing my face in movies where the screen is full of people with guns; I'm tired of this hieroglyphic of me and a gun," Cage said. "I never appear in posters with a gun—that's a career decision I've made—but the films, I'm realizing, when you take a step back, there's quite a few that have guns. For ... One of the things I'm attempting to be more aware of is the power of

films and the responsibility that comes with that. Movies have the power to change people's minds."

Cage said he also had been wanting to make a film about a single father (his character in "Knowing" is a widower) and that issues of mortality and parenting in "Knowing" resonated with him. During the four-month shoot in Melbourne, Australia, Cage mined his own emotional memories of raising his eldest son, Weston (now 18), and speaking to the youngster about fear of loss and the unknown.

Part of that came from working opposite 10-year-old Houston native Canterbury ("This young man," Cage said, "is deep beyond his years"), but at times Cage felt like he was trading lines with his own past.

"My life experience and my desire to make a film at this time that spoke about important things, it came together into this perfect marriage," Cage said. "Sometimes, it all comes together. You can never really predict it."

BEST SELLERS

(c) 2009 Los Angeles Times

FICTION

Handle With Care by Jodi Picoult, (Atria: \$27.95) A family is thrown into turmoil when they sue over their daughter's medical condition.

The Women by T.C. Boyle, (Viking: \$27.95) Frank Lloyd Wright's life as told through the experiences of the four women who loved him.

Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Last Straw by Jeff Kinney (Amulet: \$12.95) Greg's dad enlists him in organized sports in order to toughen him up.

Eclipse, by Stephenie Meyer (Little, Brown: \$19.99) Bella must choose between her lover and a friend, between life and death.

Breaking Dawn, by Stephenie Meyer (Little, Brown: \$22.99) The final book in the Twilight saga finds Bella choosing immortality.

The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society, by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows (Dial Press: \$22) A writer corresponds with islanders after German occupation.

Little Bee, by Chris Cleave (Simon & Schuster: \$24) The lives of two married British journalists and a Nigerian teenager collide.

The Associate, by John Grisham (Doubleday: \$27.95) A law school grad's secret is used to blackmail him into stealing files from a N.Y. law firm, putting his life in danger.

Fool, by Christopher Moore (William Morrow: \$26.99) King Lear's jester and an apprentice set out to save the kingdom in this comedy of errors.

Promises in Death, by J.D. Robb (Putnam: \$26.95) A cop killer is hunted down in New York City in 2060.

NONFICTION

Outliers, by Malcolm Gladwell (Little, Brown: \$27.99) An exploration of the background of high achievers.

Act Like a Lady, Think Like a Man by Steve Harvey (Amistad: \$23.99) The talk-show host lets women inside the mind-set of a man.

The Yankee Years, by Joe Torre (Doubleday: \$26.95) Behind the scenes of what it really took to try to keep the New York Yankees on top of the baseball world.

The Inaugural Address 2009, by Barack Obama (Penguin: \$12) A keepsake edition commemorating the inauguration of the 44th president with the words of Abraham Lincoln and Ralph Waldo Emerson.

Dewey, by Vicki Myron with Bret Witter (Grand Central: \$19.99) The impact that a cat named Dewey Readmore Books had on an Iowa library and its patrons.

The Last Lecture, by Randy Pausch with Jeffrey Zaslow (Hyperion: \$21.95) A professor's terminal cancer inspires a call to seize life's moments.

The Secret by Rhonda Byrne (Beyond Words: \$23.95) Life's secrets, distilled.

The Lost City of Z, by David Grann (Doubleday: \$27.50) British explorer Col. Percy Fawcett's quest to find an ancient Amazonian society.

Hot, Flat, and Crowded, by Thomas L. Friedman (Farrar, Straus & Giroux: \$27.95) Solutions to overpopulation and the global-warming crisis.

How We Decide, by Jonah Lehrer (Houghton Mifflin: \$25) Insight into and understanding of human decision-making.

Natasha Bedingfield weds in Malibu

Winfrey offers DeGeneres spot on O magazine cover

CHICAGO (AP)—Oprah Winfrey offered to share the cover of O magazine with Ellen DeGeneres, and DeGeneres—who's been campaigning for the spot—has accepted.

Winfrey surprised DeGeneres with a video telephone call on Friday's episode of "The Oprah Winfrey Show." She told a shocked DeGeneres that she was "calling to offi-

cially invite you on the cover of O."

DeGeneres, who's been mounting a campaign for the cover during her "Ellen" talk show, told Winfrey: "I can't believe you're serious about this. I'm freaking out right now."

Winfrey had gone solo on the cover of O magazine for nine years before sharing the spot with first lady Michelle Obama.

MALIBU, Calif. (AP)—British singer Natasha Bedingfield has gotten married in Malibu.

People Magazine reports the pop songstress wed California businessman Matthew Robinson in a 30-minute outdoor ceremony overlooking the Pacific

Ocean on Saturday.

About 150 guests watched Bedingfield walk down the aisle in a Vera Wang dress beside the chateau at the Church Estates Vineyards.

Bedingfield's albums include "Unwritten," "N.B." and "Pocketful of Sunshine."



Singer Natasha Bedingfield poses on the press line at the Elton John Academy Award viewing and after party in West Hollywood, Calif. in this Sunday, Feb. 22, 2009 file photo.

White House says Obama's quip 'thoughtless joke'

WASHINGTON (AP)—The White House says President Barack Obama realizes his talk show quip about the Special Olympics was a "thoughtless joke" and the group's athletes deserve better.

White House press secretary Robert Gibbs on Friday dealt with the fallout from Obama's appearance on Jay Leno's "Tonight Show." In his bantering with the host, the president equated his

bowling skills with the Special Olympics. Recognizing his blunder, Obama apologized to the chairman of the Special Olympics before the show aired.

Gibbs said the president believes that the Special Olympics are "a triumph of the human spirit." Gibbs added that Obama "understands that they deserve a lot better than the thoughtless joke that he made last night."

Gere tours Galapagos, meets unique tortoise

QUITO, Ecuador (AP)—Richard Gere may be adopting a new cause: the preservation of the Galapagos Islands.

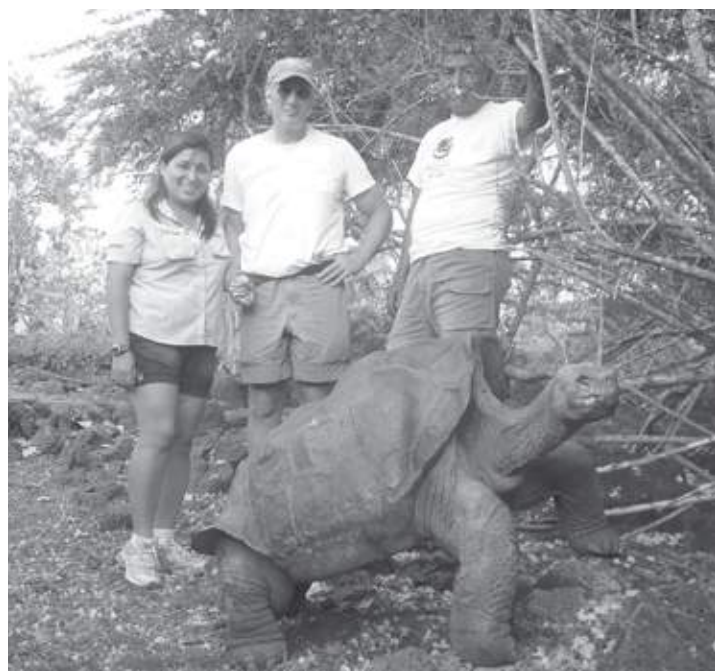
Galapagos National Park spokeswoman Vanessa Garcia says that during a visit to the Ecuadorian islands, he offered to speak out publicly for their conservation.

The Galapagos are home to unique animal and plant species and were a living laboratory for Charles Darwin. But conserva-

tionists say they are threatened by development and tourism.

The 59-year-old star of "Pretty Woman" and "Chicago" is touring the archipelago with his wife and son. Ecuadorian TV shows Gere meeting Lonesome George, believed to be the last living member of the Geochelone abigdoni tortoise species.

Gere is an outspoken advocate for human rights in Tibet and other causes.



US movie star Richard Gere, center, poses for pictures next to 'Lonesome Jorge', a giant tortoise in the Galapagos Islands, Ecuador, Wednesday, March 18, 2009. The woman at left and the man at right are park guides.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Miracles do happen on Hollywood Walk of Fame

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Now when Smokey Robinson walks in Hollywood, he'll have two stars to dust off. Robinson was on hand Friday as The Miracles received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. The group's frontman was previously honored with a star for his solo work. "I've had a star for the last 20 years or so, and it is way, way, way, way overdue" for The Miracles, Robinson said. A number of their Motown contemporaries were present, including Stevie Wonder, Motown founder Berry Gordy, and original Supremes member Mary Wilson.

A number of events this year mark the 50th anniversary of the legendary Motown record label. Yesterday in Detroit, Gordy and Robinson joined the "American Idol" finalists to tape a segment set to air next Wednesday.

Daughter pushes for Falk conservatorship

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Peter Falk's daughter is asking a court to establish a conservatorship so that she can continue to visit her ailing father. In court documents filed Friday in Los Angeles, Catherine Falk argues that a conservatorship is the only way to prevent the actor's wife from blocking her regular visits. The filing states the "Columbo" actor is

suffering from advanced dementia. Catherine Falk was granted one supervised visit last month; no discussion of how that visit went is included in the documents filed Friday. The filing only seeks to establish a conservatorship over Falk, not his estate. A hearing was scheduled for Monday. A phone message left for an attorney representing Falk's wife, Shera, was not immediately returned.

Detroit-area cafe staging 10-day autos tribute

FERNDAL, Mich. (AP)—A coffee shop in a Detroit suburb has started a 10-day continuous live musical tribute to the Ameri-

can auto industry. The 240-hour "Assembly Line" show at AJ's Music Cafe in Ferndale kicked off Friday with Motown star-turned-Detroit City Councilwoman Martha Reeves singing the "The Star-Spangled Banner." Owner A.J. O'Neil told The Detroit News he organized the show to pay tribute to American workers, products and automobiles amid the turmoil in the auto industry. He also hopes to set a Guinness World Records mark for a concert by multiple artists. AJ's previously drew attention for a 50-hour "Danny Boy" marathon it held last year and an offer by its owner to give a free cup of coffee to customers who pledge to buy American cars.

Diabetes Alert Day forewarns public of silent killer's risks

DEAR ABBY: Some risks are worth taking. Ignoring signs of diabetes isn't one of them. Several years ago, you played a critical role on American Diabetes Alert Day by informing your readers about the importance of type 2 diabetes prevention and detection.



Dear Abby

Diabetes is a "silent" killer that slowly takes away people's health, their money, their time and their dreams.

It's called a silent killer because people can have it for years and not know it. This disease affects many of your readers—nearly 24 million children and adults in the U.S. are diabetic, and another 57 million Americans have pre-diabetes. (Their blood glucose levels are higher than normal, but not yet high enough to be diagnosed with the disease.)

Diabetes affects more than just the person who has it—it also affects the parent who is caring for a diabetic child, the spouse who plays the role of caretaker, and the adult whose parent is struggling with this illness. Unfortunately, the number of people developing diabetes continues to grow at an alarming rate.

Tuesday, March 24, 2009, is the 21st annual American Diabetes Alert Day—a one-day call to action, encouraging all Americans to find out if they are at risk for developing type 2 diabetes. Fortunately, there is a great deal your readers can do once they know their risk.

With your help, Abby, we can motivate millions to start taking the necessary steps to protect themselves and their families from this life-threatening disease. Thanks for lending a hand.

R. PAUL ROBERTSON, M.D., PRESIDENT, AMERICAN DIABETES ASSOCIATION

DEAR DR. ROBERTSON: I'm pleased to help because once diagnosed, type 2 diabetes is an illness that can be successfully managed. However, if it is ignored, it can eventually destroy the organs of the body.

Readers, please help yourselves and your families by taking the diabetes risk test at www.diabetes.org/alert or by calling (800) 342-2383 tomorrow. Don't put it off—I care about you.

DEAR ABBY: My husband "John" and I are in our 60s. We were friends with a couple we loved being with—sharing many dinners and vacations together. A few years ago they said we could no longer socialize together because they couldn't stand John, and they dumped us. I was hurt and blamed my husband.

They recently showed up at our doorstep and invited us to go out with them. I thought everything was going great, but it seems that everything my husband does is wrong in their eyes. They have dumped us—again.

This couple certainly wasn't perfect, but my husband and I overlooked a lot because we were friends. John may have his faults, but what they did is wrong. What do you think we should do?

FAIR WEATHER FRIENDS IN NEW YORK

DEAR F.W.F.: Allow me to be direct. I think it's time you and John crossed this couple off your list once and for all, don't you? What they did to your husband was insulting the first time and should not have been allowed to happen twice.

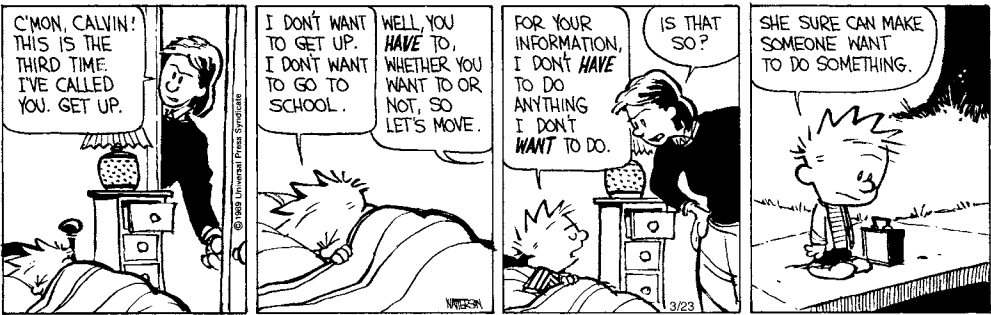
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Some or the Black
4 Aesopian story
9 Bribe
12 Violinist's need
13 Forcefully
14 Mine output
15 Lawyer, in the U.K.
17 Confed-eracy leader
18 Opposite of "trans-"
19 Idea
21 Missing
24 Hit with an open hand
25 Brazilian resort
26 Joke
28 Lascivious
31 Right angles
33 Poorly lit
35 Wear out
36 Cut corners
38 Talk and talk

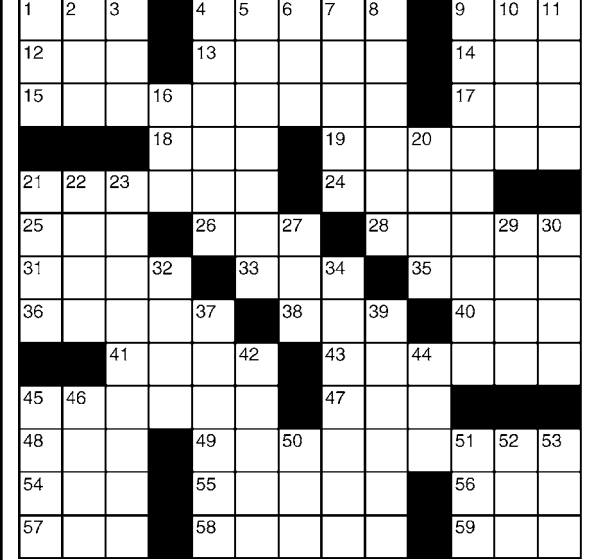
DOWN

1 Tummy muscles
2 Sticky stuff
3 Pussy-cat's partner
4 Up against
5 1839 mutiny site
6 Slugger's prop
7 They have their pride
8 Sign up
9 "Only the self exists" theory
10 Sandwich cookie
11 Hammer-head part
16 Capades locale
20 Lacking slack
21 War god
22 Swindle
23 Reliability
27 Showbiz job
29 Genealogy chart
30 Calendar quota
32 Urban blight
34 007's quaff
37 "Cheers" computer
42 Danish money
44 — rampage
45 Shoulder of a road
46 State with certainty
50 Stander's loss
51 Hostel
52 Regret
53 This clue's place, aptly enough

Solution time: 24 mins.

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Saturday's answer 3-23



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Keri Russell, 33; Richard Grieco, 44; Teresa Ganzel, 52; Chaka Khan, 56

Happy Birthday: You have plenty to accomplish and very little time to waste. Opportunities will come, so go about your business showing originality and discretion. It's a year to experiment, so accept trial-and-error as you push your way into the future. Your numbers are 3, 12, 14, 25, 32, 37, 41

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't let the little things get to you when there is so much you can accomplish by doing a little research. You have to use what works best for you. Don't bother arguing—take in the information given and go about your business. ****

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Think about going the distance if you want to really accomplish your set goals. Seeing someone in person will have a far greater impact. Don't, however, overdo, overindulge or overspend in the process. Couple honesty with forward thinking. **

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Someone will dangle a carrot in front of you and, if you aren't careful, you may end up in hot water. Balance will mean everything and, the less drama, the better the results will be. *****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Stick to what you know and do best and you can manage any of the pitfalls that drop in your lap. Being forceful will pay off, even if it isn't a position you like to take. Do what you must. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You should be thinking about a trip, getting together with someone you love or touching base with an old friend. Money matters may be questionable but, as long as you stick to legitimate ways of obtaining cash, you will do well. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You may have trouble finishing what you start or sticking to what you have promised to do. Now is not the time to spend on anything that isn't necessary. An honest effort is what will pay off. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You'll be drawn toward someone who can make a difference to your future. Don't let your attraction stop you from doing what must be done to get ahead. You don't want to make someone who can influence your future upset or angry. Think big. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Use your powerful, creative style to take care of business. Talks will lead you in a new direction, allowing you a new way of presenting what you have to offer and to show off what you are capable of handling. Don't let anyone take over what you have been building for so long. *****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): If you cannot control your anger or your disappointment, walk away until you know you can face wisely whatever challenge is being presented. Take a philosophical look at your past, present and your future. **

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't start something you cannot finish. Be sure of your capabilities but don't fear doing

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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things a little differently. Mix your strengths with a little ingenuity and you can challenge anyone who may try to stand in your way. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You will be looking at things very emotionally. Try to hone your skills and your outlook so you can get ahead without promising too much. Staying within your budget will be essential both personally and professionally. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Not everything will be easy for you to decipher. Someone will withhold information that is crucial to a decision you are supposed to make. Don't give in to the pressure. Erratic behavior will lead to a lack of confidence. ***

Birthday Baby: You are aggressive, unpredictable and creatively ahead of the times. You always give others the benefit of a doubt and can inspire them.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

			5			4	1		2
					5			3	
2			9	8	1				7
		4			5	7		3	
	5	1				2	9		
9		8	2			4			
7			4	6	3			1	
	4			2					
5		9	8			6			

Difficulty Level ★ 3/23

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

6	7	9	5	3	2	4	1	8
3	2	1	4	6	8	9	7	5
8	4	5	1	9	7	6	3	2
9	6	8	3	5	4	1	2	7
1	5	7	2	8	9	3	4	6
2	3	4	7	1	6	8	5	9
7	9	3	8	4	5	2	6	1
5	1	6	9	2	3	7	8	4
4	8	2	6	7	1	5	9	3

Difficulty Level ★★ 1/21

WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

THE FABULOUS IZZY ASPER (1932-2003) Solution: 7 letters

J R P N I V L E K U S H N E R
M E Y E R S N N E W M A N D A
A T R M T W H T I M S L S R S
R S P U O E E R L I D I B A O
T A D R S N R E U L P B A N D
I M C E I A A P O T C A B O E
N C S A L N L R O T H I U E N
I M R M N U A E C S E V S L N
S K R E O H X N M H T W T U I
U A O D L K E E Y B N S Z C M
R L L I W E E U O X E I I T A
E I A V P F I R E W O R K S T
T G V A D L O G N N Y R S U L
Y T W D I S R A E N L A W S R I
R A B B I S C H W A R T Z T N

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Babs, Can West, Crown, David, Deluxe, Entrepreneur, Fireworks, Gail, Golda, Harold, Israel, Jerusalem, Kelvin, Kushner, Laws, Leanne, Leonard, Liba, Lyric, Martinis, Matlin, McMaster, Meyers, Minnedosa, Monarch, Music, Neepawa, Newman, Paul, Peter, Post, Rabbi, ROB TV, Roxy, Ruth, Schwartz, Smith, Smoker, Surety, Trust, Ukraine, Valor, Will, Zion, Zwet

Last Saturday's Answer: Correction

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Name: Yaping, Liu
Passport No: 141670037
Type of Passport: China
Date of Birth: April 12, 1967
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LOST PASSPORT
Name: Kangliu, Zheng
Passport No: 142649056
Type of Passport: China
Date of Birth: March 19, 1956
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LOST PASSPORT
Name: Wenshan, Zhao
Passport No: 145386787
Type of Passport: China
Date of Birth: July 16, 1962
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Northern Mariana Islands
RETIREMENT FUND

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA# 09-012

OPENING DATE: March 16, 2009 CLOSING DATE: March 31, 2009

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Mark Aguon, Administrator
NMI Retirement Fund
P.O. Box 501247
Saipan, MP 96950-1247
E-mail: administrator01@nmiretirement.com

WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

CONSTABLE

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Find today's solution in this section

William M. Fitzgerald, Esq.
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Saipan, MP 96950
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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE ESTATE OF SYLVERIA BENAVENTE MENDIOLA, Deceased,

CIVIL ACTION NO. 09-0046

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATRIX AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on March 16, 2009, Margarita M. Palacios has been appointed and qualified by the Commonwealth Superior Court as Administratrix of the Estate of Sylveria B. Mendiola, deceased. ALL CREDITORS and persons having claims against the Estate or against the deceased are required to file the same, with proper vouchers attached, with the Clerk of Court of the Commonwealth Superior Court, within sixty (60) days of the first publication of this notice, or be forever barred.

DATED this 18th day of March, 2009.

/s/ William M. Fitzgerald (F0110)
Attorney for Administratrix



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Villanova foils UCLA's Final Four bid



PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Dante Cunningham scored 18 points Saturday, helping Villanova reach the round of 16 for the fourth time in five years with an 89-69 victory over UCLA that ended the Bruins' bid for a fourth straight Final Four appearance.

Corey Fisher and Reggie Redding each had 13 points for the third-seeded Wildcats (28-7), who advanced to the round of 16 in the East Region.

Josh Shipp led UCLA with 18 points and Darren Collison had 15. It's the earliest exit for the sixth-seeded Bruins (26-9) since a first-round loss in the 2005 NCAA tournament.

Backed by a raucous, hometown crowd at their off-campus home, Villanova jumped on UCLA early and hardly let up. A 19-2 run that started five minutes in put the Wildcats ahead 28-11 before the midpoint of the first half, and the Bruins never seriously threatened.

Duke 74, Texas 69

At Greensborough, North Carolina, Gerald Henderson finally will find out what the second weekend of the NCAA tournament is like.

Henderson scored 24 points and hit three free throws in the final minute to help Duke beat Texas in the second round of the East Regional.

Kyle Singler added 17 points and Jon Scheyer added 13 for the second-seeded Blue Devils (30-6). They reached the round of 16 for the first time since 2006 and will face Villanova on Thursday night in Boston.

WEST REGIONAL Memphis 89, Maryland 70

At Kansas City, Mo., Tyreke Evans scored 19 points and the Tigers shot a sizzling 70 percent in the first half, awakening from their first-round slumber to belt the Terps.

Roburt Sallie, the surprise hero of Thursday's hard-fought victory over No. 15 seed Cal State Northridge, came off the bench and kept up his 3-point onslaught by hitting his first three, making him 13-for-19 for the tourney. He finished with 13 points.

Connecticut 92, Texas A&M 66

At Philadelphia, A.J. Price scored 27 points, Jeff Adrien had 23 and UConn dominated Texas A&M from the opening tip with Hall of Fame coach Jim Calhoun back on the bench.

After getting treatment for dehydration and missing Connecticut's first-round game, Calhoun came back and never had to worry. The Huskies scored the first 10 points and kept pulling away.

Purdue 76, Washington 74

At Portland, Ore., JaJuan Johnson scored 22 points and had two huge blocks in the final minute as fifth-seeded Purdue held off a frantic charge from Washington.

The Boilermakers (27-9) advanced to their first regional semifinals since 2000. The Big Ten tournament champions led the entire game, but nearly blew a 14-point lead to the desperate, determined Huskies (26-9).

E'Twaun Moore scored 14 points and made the clinching free throws with 5.5 seconds remaining for Purdue.



UCLA's Nikola Dragovic (41) tries to control the ball as Villanova's Dwayne Anderson (22) and Reggie Redding (15), right, dive for it during the first half of the second-round men's NCAA college basketball tournament game in Philadelphia, Saturday, March 21, 2009. AP

SOUTH REGIONAL North Carolina 84, LSU 70

At Greensborough, N.C., Ty Lawson got back just in time to help top-seeded North Carolina win before a friendly crowd.

The Atlantic Coast Conference player of the year had missed the past three games after he jammed his right toe in practice two days before the regular-season finale against Duke. Against LSU, Lawson scored 23 points and made a three-point play that sparked a decisive second-half run.

Wayne Ellington scored 23 points to lead the Tar Heels (30-4).

Gonzaga 83, Western Kentucky 81

At Portland Ore., freshman Demetri Goodson streaked the length of the court and made a short, running bank shot with 0.9 seconds left, lifting fourth-seeded Gonzaga over Western Kentucky.

Gonzaga (28-5) advanced to the South Region semifinals to play North Carolina on Friday in Memphis, Tenn.

Oklahoma 73, Michigan 63

At Kansas City, Mo., Bulling through double teams and soaring in for vicious dunks, Blake Griffin finished with 33 points and 14 rebounds to power Oklahoma past Michigan.

Still sore from being dumped by Morgan State's Ameer Ali in the first round, Griffin dominated the undersized Wolverines to help the second-seeded Sooners (29-5) advance to next week's South Regional semifinals against the Syracuse-Arizona State winner.

The 10th-seeded Wolverines (21-14) pulled off a mild upset in the opening round by withstanding Clemson's relentless pressure, but couldn't handle Griffin's tenacity to make it two in a row.

50-year-old Lehman leads PGA Tour event

PALM HARBOR, Fla. (AP)—Tom Lehman's right elbow hurt so much that he couldn't take the club past his waist, a case of tendinitis so severe it kept him out for five months. When he returned to the PGA Tour, he missed the cut four times in a row.

"My game was in shambles," he said. "It was making 50 look all the more appealing, quite frankly."

He felt like his old self Saturday in the Transitions Championship.

Two weeks after celebrating his 50th birthday, and a month before he makes his Champions Tour debut, Lehman ran off four straight birdies on his way to a 3-under 68 and took a one-shot lead over Retief Goosen.

Lehman was at 8-under 205 and will try to become only the seventh player in this 50s to win on the PGA Tour.

But it doesn't figure to be easy.

Right behind him was Goosen, who had a 69. Leading the group at 5-under 208 was Masters champion Trevor Immelman. And the toughest part might be the Copperhead Course at Innisbrook, among the toughest tracks on tour. The greens were so firm that the ball produced puffs of dry soil when it landed.

Goosen said it reminded him of Shinnecock Hills in 2004 when he won his second U.S. Open.

"Shinnecock changed overnight. Similar things have happened here," he said. "They're dead in places, and very tricky."

Lehman has the experience, but it has been awhile.

He has not been atop the lead-

erboard going into the final round since the fog-delayed Buick Invitational four years ago. It has been nine years since his last PGA Tour victory at the Phoenix Open.

"I'm extremely motivated to play good golf," Lehman said. "I don't

want to finish my career playing lousy."

The highlight of his birdie streak came at the par-3 13th, a 6-iron over the water to inside a foot, the easiest birdie he had all day. He also made a sweeping 30-footer on the 14th, and another good putt from 15 feet on the 15th hole.

Equally important was a chip that was just off the 17th green, buried in the grass, with the brittle green running away from him. Lehman hit it a few feet and watched it trickle to tap-in range.

Told that NBC Sports analyst Johnny Miller suggested the chip was an accidental chunk, Lehman was stunned.

"That's one of the best shots I hit all week," he said. "Gosh, that makes me mad."

Immelman hit a terrific chip himself, knocking it in for eagle on the opening hole to get into contention. He stayed there most of the day, and was among eight players who had at least a share of the lead Saturday.

"You are going to lose some shots eventually," Immelman said. "It's just the nature of this course. Sometimes you don't even have to hit a bad shot and you make a bogey."

Joining him at 208 were Stuart Appleby (71), Jonathan Byrd (71) and Charles Howell III (71), an

Augusta native suddenly presented with a chance to win and get into the Masters. The group at 4-under 209 included former PGA champions David Toms, Rich Beem and Steve Stricker, who had a 73 to end his 10 consecutive rounds at par or better.

Stricker and Nick Watney, tied for the lead going into the third round, both struggled.

Stricker took bogey on the par-5 fifth hole when he missed a 6-foot putt, and the man regarded among the best in golf with the short stick three-putted twice for bogey on the back nine.

Watney made a 35-foot birdie putt to escape trouble on the opening hole, and got out of another jam on the fifth when he bounced a chip below the branches of a bush, across the rough and onto the green to within 4 feet for birdie. But he missed it badly, took double bogey on the next hole and tumbled to a 74, leaving him at 3-under 210.

Even so, Watney was among 17 players who were within five shots of the lead. And making up ground on the leaders could be a matter of making pars if the conditions continue to stay dry.

Lehman, who has not won in nine years, figures that works in his favor.

"It's not an easy golf course to go out and shoot 63, which means that for me, just keep on playing my game and be patient," Lehman said. "I just turned 50. That actually works in my favor. You realize there's a lot more important things in life than a golf tournament—although this is very important."

South Korea advances to WBC finals



LOS ANGELES (AP)—Venezuela has a roster full of big leaguers, South Korea just one.

Nevertheless, the reigning Olympic champions reached the finals of the second World Baseball Classic with ease Saturday night.

Cleveland Indians outfielder Choo Shin-Soo hit a three-run homer to cap a five-run first, Yoon Suk-Min allowed two runs in 6 1-3 innings, and South Korea beat mistake-prone Venezuela 10-2 at Dodger Stadium before an enthusiastic crowd of 43,378 that included Commissioner Bud Selig.

Kim Tae-Kyun added a two-run homer off loser Carlos Silva in the second for South Korea, which meets the winner of Sunday night's semifinal matchup between defending WBC champion Japan and the United States for the title on Monday night. Roy Oswalt is scheduled to pitch for the Americans against Daisuke Matsuzaka.

Oswalt, a member of the Olympic gold medal-winning team in the 2000 Olympics, is 1-0 in two WBC starts, allowing 11 hits and three runs in 7 2-3 innings.

Matsuzaka, who pitched six shutout innings against Cuba last Sunday, is 2-0, having allowed nine hits and two runs in 10 innings. He was 3-0 and selected tournament MVP in leading Japan to the inaugural WBC championship in 2006. The 28-year-old right-hander joined the Boston Red Sox two years ago.

The Japan-U.S. contest is a rematch of the bronze-medal game at last summer's Beijing Olympics, which the Americans won 8-4. Japan hasn't defeated the United States since the 2005 World Cup in the Netherlands. The Americans were eliminated 2-1 by Mexico in the second round of the first Classic after beating Japan 4-3 during pool play in Anaheim.

Yoon (2-0), a 22-year-old right-hander who went 14-5 with a 2.33 ERA



AP
South Korea's Choo Shin-soo smacks a two-run home run as Venezuela's catcher Ramon Hernandez awaits the pitch in the first inning of their semifinal game at the World Baseball Classic on Saturday, March 21, 2009, in Los Angeles. Umpire Ron Kulpa watches from behind the plate

for South Korea's KIA Tigers last year, scattered seven hits while walking one and striking out four. He allowed 13 hits and two runs in 16 innings with one walk and 13 strikeouts in four WBC outings.

Led by Miguel Cabrera, Magglio Ordonez, Bobby Abreu, Jose Lopez, Carlos Guillen, Melvin Mora and Ramon Hernandez, the Venezuelans had

12 homers and 36 extra-base hits in their first seven games and outscored the opposition 30-11 while winning their previous five, including two over Team USA.

That meant nothing against Yoon and the South Koreans, who put them away in the opening inning.

Silva (1-1) entered the semifinals having allowed just one run on 10

hits with one walk and six strikeouts in 11 innings over two WBC outings. But he didn't last long against the South Koreans, being chased after giving up six hits and seven runs, six earned, in 1 1-3 innings.

Lee Yongkyu walked to begin the game and Jeong Keunwoo reached base when right fielder Abreu dropped his fly ball for an error—one of five

committed by Venezuela after it made five in seven previous games, six of them wins.

Kim Hyun-Soo followed with an RBI single and Kim Tae-Kyun singled to load the bases. After Lee Dae-Ho drove in a run with an RBI groundout, Choo hit an 0-1 pitch over the center field fence for a three-run homer—just his second hit in 11 WBC at-bats. Choo hit .309 with 14 homers and 66 RBIs in 94 games with the Indians last season.

Kim Hyun-Soo hit a one-out double in the second and Kim Tae-Kyun followed with his third homer of the Classic, making it 7-0 and chasing Silva, who went 5-14 with a 6.46 ERA for the Seattle Mariners last year.

Venezuela got a run in the third on one-out singles by Marco Scutaro, Endy Chavez and Mora before Yoon retired Abreu on a grounder and Cabrera on a liner to left to end the inning.

South Korea made it 8-1 with an unearned run off Enrique Gonzalez in the fourth when first baseman Cabrera was unable to handle a pickoff throw from catcher Hernandez for an error, allowing Ko Young Min to score from second. Gonzalez allowed one hit and the unearned run in 3 2-3 innings.

South Korea shortstop Park Ki-Hyuk robbed Hernandez leading off the fifth, diving to snare his grounder up the middle before scrambling to his feet and throwing to first just in time.

South Korea extended its lead to 10-1 off Victor Zambrano in the sixth on an RBI single by Lee Dae-Ho and a sacrifice fly by Choi Jeong. Kim Hyun-Soo went 3-for-3 with a walk before coming out for a pinch runner in the inning.

Guillen opened the seventh by hitting an 0-2 pitch from Yoon into the right-center field pavilion for his third WBC homer to complete the scoring. Guillen, Abreu and Hernandez had two hits each for Venezuela, who had a total of nine off five pitchers. South Korea had 10 hits off six pitchers



PHOENIX (AP)—Jason Richardson scored 17 of his season-high 35 points in the third quarter and Phoenix extended its winning streak to a season-high four games by beating Washington, 128-96.

Shaquille O'Neal scored 13 to pass Moses Malone as the No. 5 scorer in NBA history with 27,411 points. He also finished with 10 rebounds.

Steve Nash added 17 points for the Suns, who pulled with 3 1/2 games of idle Dallas for the eighth and final playoff spot in the West with 13 to play. Stromile Swift had 10 points and 12 rebounds in his best game since joining Phoenix on March 4.

Antawn Jamison scored 25 as the Wizards completed a winless four-game, five-day trip west.

Cavaliers 102, Hawks 96

At Cleveland, Mo Williams scored 24 points, LeBron James added 22 and the Cleveland Cavaliers rolled to their eighth straight win, 102-96 over the Atlanta Hawks on Saturday.

The loss snapped the Hawks' seven-game winning streak.

All of Atlanta's wins during the streak came at home, but the Hawks found circumstances much more dif-

Shaq reaches milestone in Suns win

ficult at Quicken Loans Arena, where the Cavaliers are 32-1. Cleveland (56-13) has the best record in the NBA and is 16-2 since the All-Star break.

Joe Johnson led Atlanta with 24 points, while Flip Murray added 22. Maurice Evans scored 15 and Bibby had 14.

Lakers 117, Bulls 109

At Chicago, Kobe Bryant scored 28 points, Pau Gasol added 23 and Los Angeles rallied to beat Chicago in the first of a season-high, seven-game trip.

The Lakers trailed by 16 in the second quarter and 14 at the half, but came roaring back in the third, pulling within one. They tied it early in the fourth, then took the lead with a 14-0 run that made it 106-93.

Gasol grabbed 10 rebounds as the Lakers earned their fifth victory in six games. Trevor Ariza scored 18 points, Lamar Odom added 16 and Jordan Farmar had eight of his 13 in the decisive run.

John Salmons scored 30 and Derrick

Rose 25 for the Bulls, who had tied a season high with three straight wins, but their luck ended against the Western Conference leaders. So did their seven-game home win streak.

Celtics 105, Grizzlies 87

At Memphis, Tenn, Glen Davis scored a career-high 24 points on 8-of-11 shooting, and Boston pulled away in the second half to beat Memphis.

Ray Allen added 20 points and six assists, while Eddie House contributed 15 points as the Celtics won their third straight overall and fifth in a row over the Grizzlies.

Kevin Garnett, still playing limited minutes in his second game back from a right knee injury, scored 10 points and grabbed four rebounds in 17 minutes. Paul Pierce, Boston's leading scorer with 20.5 points per game, was limited to six on 2-of-6 shooting.

Hakim Warrick scored 20 points for Memphis, which dropped its sixth straight at home and fourth in a row overall. Rudy Gay finished with 15 points on just 5-of-15 shooting,

while O.J. Mayo and Mike Conley scored 12 apiece.

Pacers 108, Bobcats 83

At Charlotte, N.C., Jarrett Jack scored 31 points and was nearly perfect a night after getting benched following a dispute with a teammate, and energized Indiana dominated Charlotte to snap a five-game losing streak.

Jack hit 13 of 14 shots, all four free throws and added six rebounds as the Pacers had their best performance in weeks and shook off Friday's incident that saw Jack get into a heated argument with T.J. Ford in a loss to Dallas.

Danny Granger added 21 points and Brandon Rush scored 15 for Indiana, which outscored Charlotte 33-9 in the third quarter.

Boris Diaw scored 15 points in a brutal performance by the Bobcats, who had their three-game winning streak snapped and their playoff hopes take a hit.

Magic 110, Knicks 103

At Orlando, Fla., Rashard Lewis scored 27 points, Hedo Turkoglu added 20 and

surging Orlando nearly blew a 15-point lead before holding off New York.

Rafer Alston had 17 points, and Dwight Howard battled foul trouble to score 15 for the Magic, who have won nine of their last 11 games. The win kept Orlando (51-18) tied in the loss column with Boston for the Eastern Conference's second-best record behind Cleveland.

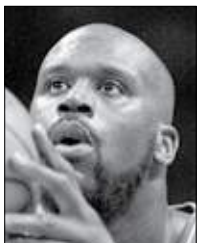
Quentin Richardson scored 33 points, and Nate Robinson added 27 for New York (28-41), which has lost four straight games and was dealt another crushing blow to its already grim playoff hopes.

Trail Blazers 96, Bucks 84

At Milwaukee, Brandon Roy scored 30 points to lead Portland over Milwaukee.

Steve Blake added 21 and tied his season high with six 3-pointers as Portland, playing its fifth game in seven nights, came alive in the second half. The Trail Blazers finished their five-game road trip with a 3-2 mark and some momentum as they look to move up from their seventh spot in the Western Conference playoff scramble.

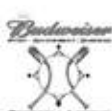
Charlie Villanueva scored 26 points for Milwaukee, which finished a six-game homestand with a 2-4 mark.



O'Neal

CUC beats Mayor's Office to stay alive

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

 Commonwealth Utilities Corporation outscored Mayor's Office, 21-8, Thursday night at the Capital Hill Ballfield to keep its hopes alive for at least a tiebreak for

the last playoff berth in the 2009 Budweiser Inter Government/Business Softball League. CUC stretched a 14-7 advantage after five full innings by firing seven more runs in the top of the sixth inning. Pitcher Melvin Tudela went 4-for-4 with four runs, two RBIs and a double, while other CUC

batters contributed well. Ton Guerrero was only 1-for-4 at bat, but it was a two-run homerun. Joe Fejeran had three runs, two RBIs, and a triple; Vinnie Sablan scored two runs, three RBIs, two doubles, and a triple; Pat Blas made two runs and two RBIs, Jeff Cabrera nailed three runs, two triples, and a RBI; Oscar Sablan

tallied two runs, two doubles, and three RBIs; Glen Villagomez posted one run, one double, and a RBI; Johnny Isaac recorded one run, one double, and three RBIs; and Ben Sablan fired one run and a double. However, with its 7-10 win-loss record for 11th place in the team standings, CUC must win its last game in the regular season for a chance to make it to the 10-team field playoff round,

which will start before the end of this month. Eight teams had already assured themselves of playoff seats, leaving only two slots to complete the cast. POI Aviation is occupying the ninth position with its 9-8 card, needing to win at least one of its last two games to make it to the next round. P&S is in 10th with an 8-8 slate and is two wins away from

clinching a playoffs seat. CUC needs to win against No Zone and hope that POI and P&S would drop their remaining assignments to force a tiebreak for the last playoffs ticket. In the other scheduled game on Thursday night, the Beach Boys won via forfeiture against Customs. Customs is now out of the playoffs, joining Mayor's Office for an early vacation.

OL'ACES

From Page 28

Lizama is currently No. 1 in ERA with 0.36, with one error in 16.2 innings he pitched and is leading in strikeouts, too, with 38 as of March 15. He now has 50 after Saturday's game. Cabrera was at second with 48. He went 2-for-3 and had 13 strikeouts against IT&E. Lizama was running fifth in batting percentage by averaging .500. He was 6-for-12 at bat, excluding his 4-for-4 stint against the Little Lions. With some help from a festive dugout, cheering every teammate at bat, a total of six Ol'Aces batters reached home plate twice—Oscar Setefano, Virgil Secharmidal, Lizama,

Virolanson Secharmidal, Jessie Brel, and Aghilimal Faisao. Leadoff batter Jerome Reyes Jr. made the team's first run right in top of the first inning, while four others had one each—Michael Muna in second, Keola Camacho and Austin Piteg in third, and Zackery Yamagishi in fifth. It was in the third and the seventh inning that Ol'Aces went into scoring spree on a string of fielding errors and wild pitches by the Little Lions, who suffered their second defeat in six games. The Little Lions' three pitchers, Jun Malite, Justin Santos, and Jess Santos, combined for two strikeouts and gave up nine base on balls and nine hits. In her first at bat in the bottom of the first inning,

Dela Cruz found her target, but she was grounded out at first base. In his second stint at the plate, she hit another grounder that passed close to the pitcher's left foot on a no-out 1-1 count. She stole second and third then reached home on a wild pitch. Ol'Aces team manager Elmer John D. Sablan lauded the boys for their team effort. "The pitcher was awesome. The catcher was awesome. This team had been practicing since October and it's paying off. Our morale is high," Sablan said. Sablan feels they have a good chance for the title, especially with three-time defending champion Patriots moving up to the Juniors Division. Finishing third last year, the Ol'Aces look forward to their

meeting against two strong teams—the Dragons and the Jets—whom they will meet on April 5 and May 9, respectively. **Hustlers 21, Shell 1** The Hustlers beat Shell, 21-1, and rolled to their third straight win for a 5-1 card. The Ol'Aces handed the Hustlers their lone. All of the Hustlers' nine batters went at bat twice in the bottom of the second inning, scoring 13 from there alone to take the game away after four and a half innings. Coby Kaipat and Ray Saralu went 4-for-4 with four runs each to lead the Hustlers. Shell took a 1-0 lead on the lone run by Logan Martin in the top of the second inning before the Hustlers had their scoring binge.

Dragons 10, IT&E 0 Earlier in the day, the Dragons stamped their class over IT&E, 10-0, to make-up from a loss in their previous game. Homerun leader Jonathan Cabrera hit his fourth of the year, while Jerald Cabrera followed suit with another HR in the fifth, sealing the Dragons' win via a 10-run mercy rule. Cabrera, who is currently in second in ERA with his 0.40, had 13 strikeouts, allowed four hits, and walked two.

Braves 20, Athletics 7 Tanapag Braves are also on the rampage, clinching their fourth straight win by pummeling Century A's with 20 hits, 10 walks, and 14 RBIs en route to a 20-7 win in five innings. The Braves, who lost their first two games of the season, got big games from KJ Kalen, who went 5-for-5 with five runs, and three RBIs; JJ Lifoifo (4-for-5 with 4 runs and 1 RBI); and Francisco Lieto (5-for-5, 3 runs, 1 RBI).

MANIBUSAN

From Page 28

tournament held at the Kingfisher Golf Links. The 3.6-handicapper shot a 1-over par 37 on the front nine and even par 36 on the back for a gross 1-over par 73 and a net 69.4 to rule the double-peoria division of the Friends for Juan "Pan" T. Guerrero and Joseph N. Camacho Fundraising Golf Tournament. In second place was South Korean pro Bae Yong Man, who shot a net and gross 70. Bae 2-over par was the game's best lowest gross score of the day, earning him first place in the Championship flight. The Ko-

rean golfer, who topped the San Jose Church Fundraising Golf Tournament on March 14 at the Talafofo course, tamed the same facility with his 2-under par 34 on the front and an even par 36 on the back. Completing the Top 3 in the lowest net score was Kim Kwang Young, who fired a net 70.4 after drilling 40s on the front and back nines. Organizers of the Juan Pan-Joseph Camacho fundraiser gave cash prizes to the Top 3 finishers and other prizes to 12 others. Rounding off the Top 15 with their corresponding net scores were Byun Chul Jun (70.6), Yasu Irinaka (71.2), Frank Castro (71.2), Tim Taguchi (71.4),

John Cepeda 971.4), Kim Gil Ah (71.4), Joe Tudela (71.8), Alex Aquininoc (72), Manny Tenorio (72.4), Mike Cruz (72.40), Brian Reyes (72.6), and Ha Young Soo (72.8). Organizers also awarded cash prizes to the top placer in six flights. Joining Bae in the lowest gross winners' list were Leina Kim (Ladies), Greg Gamboa (D Flight), Dwayne Stephens (C Flight), Manny Tenorio (B Flight), and Ned Norita (A Flight). Leina defeated 10 other participants in the Ladies division with her 1-over par 73. She scored a 1-over par 37 on the front and improved her performance on the back with an

even par 36. Gamboa had a 50 and 46 on the front and back nines, respectively, for a gross 96 in the D Flight, while Stephens had a 2-over par 74 after firing a 36 on the front and 38 on the back to win the C Flight. Manny Tenorio duplicated the best gross score of the day to top the B Flight. Tenorio was off to a slow start with his 1-over par 37 in the first nine holes, but redeemed himself in the last nine holes with a 3-under par 33. Norita, who placed third to Bae and Wabol in the San Jose fundraiser after tallying a 3-over par 75, came back at the Talafofo course and played better with a 1-over par 73 to rule the A Flight.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES									
NBA STANDINGS									
EASTERN CONFERENCE									
Atlantic Division									
	W	L	Pct	GB					
y-Boston	53	18	.746	—	Tim Herron	70	70	72	212
Philadelphia	34	33	.507	17	Kenny Perry	67	74	71	212
New Jersey	30	39	.435	22	Briny Baird	70	71	71	212
New York	28	41	.406	24	Jeff Klauk	71	70	71	212
Toronto	24	45	.348	28	Jason Dufner	71	71	70	212
Central Division									
y-Cleveland	56	13	.812	—	D.A. Points	73	69	70	212
Detroit	34	34	.500	21 1/2	John Huston	70	73	69	212
Chicago	32	38	.457	24 1/2	J.J. Henry	69	68	76	213
Milwaukee	31	40	.437	26	Mark Wilson	68	71	74	213
Indiana	29	42	.408	28	Richard S. Johnson	69	72	72	213
Southeast Division									
x-Orlando	51	18	.739	—	Steve Lowery	70	70	73	213
Atlanta	41	29	.586	10 1/2	Jonathan Kaye	73	68	72	213
Miami	36	32	.529	14 1/2	Tom Pernice Jr.	70	72	71	213
Charlotte	31	39	.443	20 1/2	Kevin Na	70	72	71	213
Washington	16	55	.225	36	Nick O'Hern	69	73	71	213
WESTERN CONFERENCE									
Southwest Division									
San Antonio	45	23	.662	—	John Mallinger	69	73	71	213
Houston	46	25	.648	1/2	Ryan Moore	70	72	71	213
New Orleans	43	25	.632	2	Boo Weekley	71	72	70	213
Dallas	42	28	.600	4	Eric Axley	71	71	72	214
Memphis	17	52	.246	28 1/2	Bill Lunde	70	71	73	214
Northwest Division									
Denver	45	25	.643	—	David Mathis	71	72	71	214
Portland	44	26	.629	1	Bo Van Pelt	71	72	71	214
Utah	43	26	.623	1 1/2	Scott McCarron	69	69	77	215
Minnesota	20	49	.290	24 1/2	Ken Duke	71	70	74	215
Oklahoma City	19	50	.275	25 1/2	Kevin Sutherland	69	71	75	215
Pacific Division									
y-LA Lakers	55	14	.797	—	Cameron Beckman	69	72	74	215
Phoenix	38	31	.551	17	Billy Mayfair	72	70	73	215
Golden State	25	44	.362	30	Ben Crane	68	74	73	215
LA Clippers	17	52	.246	38	Steve Elkington	69	74	72	215
Sacramento	15	54	.217	40	Matt Bettencourt	70	73	72	215
x-Clinched Playoff Spot; y-Division Champ					Aron Price	74	69	72	215
					Chris Couch	70	73	72	215
					Jim Furyk	65	78	72	215
					Kirk Triplett	73	70	72	215
					Brendon de Jonge	68	75	72	215
					Will MacKenzie	70	71	75	216
					Bart Bryant	72	70	74	216
					Michael Letzig	69	73	74	216
					Ryuji Imada	72	71	73	216
					Alvaro Quiros	70	72	75	217
					Ryo Ishikawa	69	73	75	217
					Jimmy Walker	72	71	74	217
					Rocco Mediate	72	71	74	217
					Jason Bohn	74	68	76	218
					Brian Gay	71	69	78	218
					Tommy Armour III	73	69	76	218
					Brad Adamonis	71	71	77	219
					Rory Sabbatini	71	72	76	219
					Spencer Levin	70	73	77	220
					Nathan Green	68	74	83	225

By The Associated Press

LOCAL SCORES

BUDWEISER SOFTBALL STANDINGS

Men's Division			
DCCA	18	0	
Beach Boys	15	3	
Docomo	15	4	
Freedom Air	13	3	
Joeten Motor Jets	13	5	
No Zone	13	5	
CPA	12	4	
Legislature	11	7	
POI	9	8	
P&S	8	8	
CUC	8	10	
CRM/DEQ	7	11	
PSS	6	11	
CHC	6	11	
DLNR	6	12	
PIC	5	12	
Customs	4	14	
Mayors	4	14	
Law & Order	3	15	
Hopwood	0	17	

Women's Division			
NMC	10	2	
Finance	6	4	
CUC	6	5	
DCCA	5	7	
CHC	1	10	

KAMBE

From Page 28

tournament. Mongolia settled for second, Macau dropped to third, and the CNMI, which was the lone unranked team in the field, was last. "A few years ago, Guam was losing games in EAFF. But these losses made them better players. Instead of being discouraged by defeats against higher-ranked foes, they were challenged to improve their games in every tournament," added Kambe, who coached

Guam from 2003 to 2005. "We can do that here, too. Expectations for a team that is just starting to grow are low, but as years pass by, as players gain more experience, and improve their skills, we should raise these expectations," Kambe said. "We will struggle in the first few years, but if we keep working hard and continue to find ways to improve our program, we will reap results in due time," he said. The CNMI coach added that the three goals they scored in the tournament was a good start towards the Commonwealth's goal

of reaching the level of competitiveness of teams in the zone. "If Guam can do it, we can do it too. We just need teams that are composed of young, but skillful players. We need to get the youth more involved in the National Team. Teach them the proper mechanics of the game, hone their skills, and bring them to various tournaments, just like what Guam have been doing in the past years since becoming a FIFA member in 1996," Kambe added. Guam's lineup is composed of players in the early and mid 20's, while the CNMI had only two high school players [Lucas

Knecht and Daniel Macario], and the rest are in the mid 30s' and early 40s. Kambe is hoping to still see Knecht and Macario in the National Team in the next few years and recruit more younger players. For now, the CNMI coach will keep his roster and continue their training. He is also hoping that the team can play in friendly matches in Guam and in the Philippines. "We don't stop training because the tournament is done. We will continue to train and work on improving our players' skills," Kambe said.

ABUY

From Page 28

woman to join the race, timing in at 50:50 and leading her team to third place. Her teammates—Wilnor Alarde and Rodel Macasina, submitted times of 55:11 and 59:59 for 14th and 21st

spots, respectively. In fourth place was the team of Allan Webber, (10th, 54:23), June Pangilinan (12 th, 54:31), and Ramil Quitoriano (20th, 58:18). Antonio's fifth ranked team also included Cary Alamodin (16th, 55:49) and race organizer RommellBartolo(26th,1:07:41). A total of 31 cyclists joined the inaugural race aimed to raise

funds for the March Against Cancer Coalition. Other finishers were Rod Reyes (4th, 48:53), Arman Reyes (5th, 51:33), Patrick Gile (7th, 52:56), July Flandez (8th, 53:22), Ryan Sanciangco (9th, 53:29), Raymund Tolentino (11th, 54:23), Marlowe Resuma (12th, 57:09), Tommy Kennington (19th, 57:34), Maung San

Din (22 nd, 1:01:46), Amado Matedios (24th, 1:03:41), Ronaldo Quindoza (25th, 1:07:22), Steve Balakrishna (27th, 1:07:55), John Ricafort (28th, 1:12:09), Joey Lucido (29 th, 1:40:22), and Patel Pukar (30th 1:40:22). Only one rider did not finish the race which was also supported by PTC, D&Q, and PWS.

The Week in Sports

Staal is star of the week

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan's Kai Staal made CNMI proud when he brought home two medals from the Tokyo Junior Sprint 2009 held at the Tatsumi International Swimming Stadium.

Staal held his ground against some of Japan's best young sprinters, making it into the finals of all the three events he joined in.

The 15-year-old swimmer timed in at 32.66 seconds in the 50m breaststroke race to win the silver medal in the 13 to 14 age group. Japan's Toshiya Tanaka took the gold medal with his time of 31.72 seconds. Staal's time in the short course in Tokyo is better than his record in the long course (35.33 seconds).

Staal nailed his second medal in the 50m freestyle event after placing third in the finals. He clocked in at 25.63 seconds, which again shattered his long

course mark of 25.68 seconds. Japan's Takuya Shimada (25.42 seconds) won the gold medal in the 50m freestyle swim, while Hiroyuki Ishikawa (25.48 seconds) notched a silver.

The Tsunami Saipan summer completed his impressive performance in Tokyo with a finals appearance in the 100m individual medley. He finished seventh with his time of 1:04.75.

Back in local action, youth volleyball players picked up where the pros left off, competing in the Kids' Marianas Cup.

The Sons of the Beaches was the last team left standing among the 20 squads that joined the post-17th Marianas Cup Beach

Volleyball Festival tournament. Rep. Ed Ed Salas and Bethanie Battalones coached the winning team, which was composed of Dae Min Jeon, Angelo Salas, A.J. Batallones, Minung Kim, Lauren Hofschneider, and Michael Moran.

The Son of the Beaches swept Lamers in the best-of-three finals, 15-13, 15-9.

In baseball, last week's action saw the Ford Rangers and the D-9ers forcing a three-way tie for the lead in the 2009 Budweiser Saipan Major League with the defending champion Rock Steady.

The Ford Rangers notched their third straight victory in

four games following a 13-1 rout of the Young Guns Monday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

On Wednesday, the D-9ers stunned Rock Steady, 8-7, to improve to a 3-1 slate.

Over at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield for the Majors Division of the 2009 Saipan Little League Baseball, the Ol'Aces remained on top, while the Jets kept pace with the former.

The Ol'Aces improved to a 5-0 slate after a 14-4 win over the Tanapag Falcons, while the Jets topped the San Antonio Dragons, 7-4, for a 4-1 record.

In the Juniors Division, the

Patriots (5-1) regained the lead after beating the Red Sox, 11-8, while the Falcons snapped the Aztecs' two-game winning run with an 8-7 victory.

In softball, eight teams had already gained playoffs berths, while five had been booted out, as the 2009 Budweiser Inter-Government/Business Slow-pitch Softball League nears the conclusion of the regular season.

In mixed martial arts, Kelvin "The Big Hit" Fitial showed his top form in the All-Island Grappling Submissions Challenge: The Art of War III last Saturday at Fiesta Resort and Spa's Hibiscus Hall.

Fitial won on points against silver medalist Francis Mendiola during their final bout in the heavyweight class.

Korean pro Bae Yong Man was also in shape, as he tamed the Kingfisher Golf Links and became the only golfer to finish under par against the windy condition at the Talofofo course en route to winning the low gross division in the Inaugural San Jose Church Fundraising Golf Tournament Saturday.

Bae drilled a 1-under par 71 in the 6,216-yard course, as he had an impressive showing in the first nine holes with a 3-under par 33. Bae birdied the par-4 No. 3 and par-3 No. 6, and had a double birdie on the par-5 No. 9.

The Korean pro struggled in the last nine holes with a 2-over par 38, but still came up with a three-stroke lead over flightmate and runner-up Jess Wabol.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Kai Staal, seen here competing in the 200m freestyle race during the SSC International Swim Meet at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi early this month, was in Tokyo, Japan last week and went home with two medals he won in the Tokyo Junior Sprint 2009.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Sons of the Beaches won the 2009 Kids' Marianas Cup last Sunday at the Pacific Islands Club sand court.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Low gross top winner Bae Yong Man, left, is congratulated by San Jose Church Parish priest Jesse Reyes during the awards ceremony for the San Jose Church Fundraising Golf Tournament on March 14 at the Kingfisher Golf Links.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Participants gather for a photo session at the conclusion of the 2009 Kids' Marianas Cup beach volleyball tournament at the Pacific Islands Club sand court on March 15.



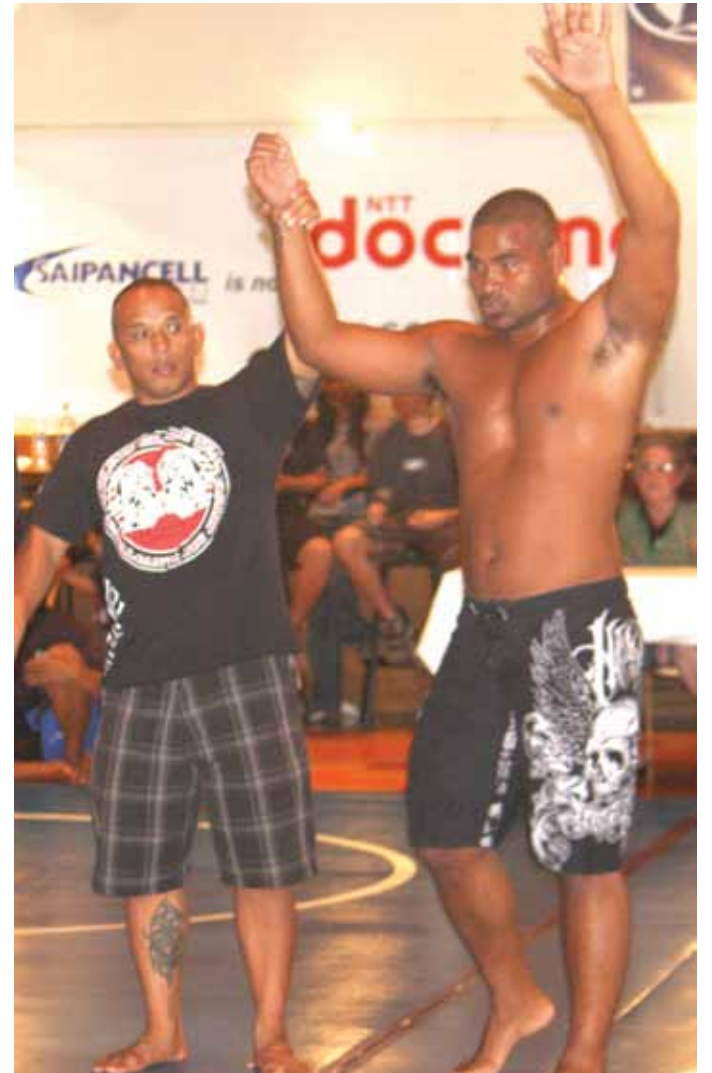
The Rangers' Derrick Sablan waits for his turn at-bat during their game against the Young Guns last Monday in the 2009 Budweiser Saipan Major League at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.



NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Jeremy Lizama of the Ol'Aces is at bat in the top of the third inning. The southpaw hit a three-run homerun over the centerfield fence in the second inning of their 17-1 blowout against the Little Lions in the Majors Division of the 2009 Saipan Little League Saturday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Ballpark.



NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

A referee raises the arm of Kelvin Fitial, who won in the heavyweight division of the All-Island Grappling Submissions Challenge: The Art of War III at Fiesta Resort and Spa's Hibiscus Hall on March 14.



Staal is star of the week

TsunamiSwimmingCenter Saipan's Kai Staal made CNMI proud when he brought home two medals from the Tokyo Junior Sprint 2009 held at the Tatsumi International Swimming Stadium.

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Villanova foils UCLA's Final Four bid

Dante Cunningham scored 18 points Saturday, helping Villanova reach the round of 16 for the fourth time in five years with an 89-69 victory over UCLA that ended the Bruins' bid for a fourth straight Final Four appearance.

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28 MONDAY, MARCH 23, 2009

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Ol'Aces remain undefeated

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Jeremy Lizama of the Ol'Aces pitched a no-hitter against male batters in the Little Lions' lineup, while a female batter went 1-for-2 and scored a run against him.



Sporting a knitted long hair, Lizama just shook his head and smiled after that.

But Catalina Dela Cruz's run was the best that the Little Lions could do against Lizama's outstanding performance at the mound, as the Ol'Aces roared to a 17-1 win via a mercy rule and stretched their winning run to six in the Major Division of the 2009 Saipan Little League at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Ballpark.

The southpaw Lizama struck out 12 of 18 who went at bat, grounded out three, walked two, and gave up only a hit from Dela Cruz in the bottom of the fourth inning.

Lizama then went 4-for-4, including a RBI triple in the first, a three-run homer over the centerfield fence in the third and a RBI single in the fifth.

It was his third homer of the season, one short of the Dragons' Jonathan Cabrera, who is leading the league in home runs with four.

See OL'ACES on Page 26



NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Jeremy Lizama of the Ol'Aces hurls one of their 12 strikeouts against the Little Lions in the Majors Division of the 2009 Saipan Little League Saturday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Ballfield.

Kambe: Guam feat should inspire CNMI strikers

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



The still developing CNMI Men's Football Team should draw inspiration from Guam, which conquered the East Asian Football Championships 2010 Preliminary Competition held at the Leo Palace Resort.

This was according to CNMI coach Sugao Kambe, who was asked about lessons learned from the qualifying tournament.

"Guam is ranked last in FIFA [201st], but was able to win the tournament against the higher-ranked teams of Mongolia [193rd] and Macau [197th]. With long preparation and a young lineup, Guam was able to win the preliminary competition for the first time," Kambe said.

Guam scored seven points in the round-robin tournament, beating Mongolia (4-1), and the CNMI (3-2) before forcing a 2-2 draw against Macau to secure a semifinals spot in the EAFF

See KAMBE on Page 26

CNMI forward Ben Wood tries to steal the ball from a fallen Macau player during their game in the East Asian Football Championships 2010 Preliminary Competition held at the Leo Palace Resort in Guam, two weeks ago.

WWW.EAFF.COM



Manibusan shines in fundraiser golf tourney

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Former Superior court president judge Edward Manibusan's file photo was by chance published with the story about the kick off of the Friends

for Juan "Pan" T. Guerrero and Joseph N. Camacho Fundraising Golf Tournament in the Saturday issue of Saipan Tribune.

This time, his picture was purposefully used for the story about the results of the fundraiser, as Manibusan bested 110 other participants in the weekend

See MANIBUSAN on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Low net top winner Edward Manibusan is flanked by Juan "Pan" T. Guerrero, left, and Joseph Norita Camacho during the awards ceremony for the Friends for Juan "Pan" T. Guerrero and Joseph N. Camacho Fundraising Golf Tournament Saturday at Kingfisher Golf Links.

Abuy and company rule PIC Bike for Life

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

James Abuy and Ric Antonio held hands as they crossed the finish ahead of the rest of the field in last Saturday's inaugural staging of the Pacific Islands Club Bike for Life.

Abuy and Antonio, both from PIC's Engineering Department, covered the 20-kilometer race from Paupau Beach via Bird Island Park to Banzai Cliff and back with identical times of 48 minutes and 22 seconds.

But Abuy's three-man team took the title, while Antonio's own squad settled fifth place.

Team standings in the inaugural race were determined by combining the times of three members.

Abuy's teammates were Ben Dela Cruz and Ely Dolore, who clocked in 55:29 for 15th place and 56:29 for 17th spot, respectively.

Edgar Abalos reached the finish line eight seconds behind Abuy and Antonio and led his team to second place.

Abalos teammates were Derrick Apasan and Darwin Barbo. Apasan finished 13th with his 55:05, while Darwin Barbo was 23rd with his 1:02:58.

Kimiko Hasegawa was the fifth overall individual finisher and the lone

See ABUY on Page 26



NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Participants in the first Pacific Islands Club Bike for Life race gather for posterity at the conclusion of the event in Paupau Beach on Saturday.